

From one grandmother's small act of remembrance comes a national child abuse prevention movement.

Help us bring about awareness and protect our most precious gift... our children!

*See Something Wrong*

*Do Something Right*

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## Every Child Counts!

It's time to raise awareness about child abuse and exploitation and create strong communities to support children and family.

# History of the Blue Ribbon

In the spring of 1989, a grandmother named Bonnie Finney took a stand against child abuse in Norfolk, Virginia. She tied a blue ribbon on the antenna of her mini van in remembrance of her late grandson and as a signal to her community that child abuse continues to devastate families every year.

Her grandson, Michael Wayne "Bubba" Dickenson and his siblings lived in an abusive home environment. Despite Finney's efforts to intervene on behalf of her grandchildren, her daughter's boyfriend murdered three-year-old Bubba. His body was found bound, beaten and bruised in a weighted toolbox at the bottom of a canal.

"One day I was just thinking about all the bruises I had seen on my grandchildren ... I just decided I was going to tie a blue ribbon on my van. Why blue? I intend never to forget the battered, bruised bodies of my grandchildren. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for protection for our children."



## Ribbon raises national awareness

Finney's personal campaign to raise public awareness of child maltreatment was joined by a Norfolk parent assistance program and a local radio station. Soon stores, businesses, schools, churches, civic organizations and social service agencies were participating in the campaign. Thousands of blue ribbons were displayed in the name of child abuse prevention. Bonnie Finney's simple act of education and remembrance has inspired a nationwide movement to designate the month of April each year as Child Abuse Prevention Month.