



For immediate release  
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### The Lisa Project Returns to Tulare County

VISALIA – The Lisa Project, an interactive exhibit exploring child abuse through the eyes of children, is returning to Tulare County for National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month in April.

The Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council is bringing the exhibit back, opening on Friday, March 30, from noon to 8 p.m. in the Sears parking lot at Caldwell and Mooney. The exhibit will be open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday through April except Easter Sunday, April 8. Hours are Thursday/Friday noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. 5 p.m.; and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. The exhibit is free and takes just 23 minutes to view. Attendees are urged to come early in the month to avoid the longer waits that develop as the closing date nears.

More than 5,500 people toured the exhibit when The Lisa Project came to Tulare County in 2010, which resulted in more than 150 people indicating interest in becoming a foster parent and many expressing interest in becoming a child's advocate or mentor.

“The members of the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) followed up with the people who expressed interest in volunteering to offer training and help them become engaged,” explained CAPC coordinator Billie Shawl. “Our goal is community awareness and involvement in addressing child abuse, and The Lisa Project plays a large role in helping us meet that goal.”

Records indicate that 40 percent of cases of abuse and neglect involve children under 5 years of age, Shawl noted.

“Children bear the brunt of parents' frustrations, mental illness, substance abuse, spousal abuse, and immaturity,” Shawl said. “Headlines continue to alert us that children are victims of sexual abuse, often by trusted individuals. Of those who experience abuse as a child, one third continue the cycle and become abusers. The way to break this cycle and protect our children is to acknowledge the abuse and get involved.”

The local budget to bring the exhibit to Tulare County is \$47,000 and about 200 volunteers are needed staff the exhibit during the month. Major support has been received from many businesses and organizations, Shawl noted, but additional support is needed.

For information on how to support the exhibit or to volunteer, contact the Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council at 745-0456. For information on The Lisa Project, visit [www.thelisaproject.org](http://www.thelisaproject.org).