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## North Haven Hosting Arts and Crafts Drive in April for Child Abuse Prevention Month

North Haven – The Department of Community Services/North Haven Counseling Services for the Town of North Haven would like to announce that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. The National Children's Alliance estimates that more than 600,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in 2021, the most recent year for which there is national data.

North Haven Counseling is a mental health clinic within the Department of Community Services for the Town of North Haven that provides mental health services across the lifespan, including children and families, treating various mental health related issues including childhood abuse and neglect.

To raise awareness, North Haven Community Services/North Haven Counseling Services will be hosting an arts and crafts, games, and toy drive throughout the entire month of April. Donations will benefit BHcare's Child Services, which include a licensed Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic for Children and other programs promoting positive mental health for children and families. The Department welcomes donations of new board games, playdoh, clay, markers, crayons, fidget toys, stress balls, sketch pads, journals and arts and craft supplies and other items that can promote comfort and support for children in treatment.

Donations can be dropped off or shipped to the Department of Community Services office, at the Town Hall Annex Building, 5 Linsley Street, throughout the month of April.

You can support our children and raise awareness on child abuse by donating an item today. Child Abuse and neglect are preventable. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, please call the DCF Careline at 1-800-842-2288. Careline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is staffed by full-time, highly skilled professionals.

For more information, please contact Carla Picard in Community Services at 203-239-5321 ext. 504. For more Information: BHCare's Children's services: https://www.bhcare.org/services/childrens-services/clinical-services-for-children/