

Imagine ... If We Could ...

- ... protect the 53,000 Florida children who were abused last year from being abused;
- ... prevent the 140 children who were abused **every day** in Florida last year from being abused;
- ... keep the two children who **died from abuse and neglect each week** last year, from dying;
- ... empower parents to support their children in school;
- ... help adults become employed and further their educations.

These abuse and neglect numbers are an abomination. They should not be tolerated in America or anywhere else.

Fortunately, unlike Lennon's "Imagine", the world envisioned by the imaginings above is largely attainable. It could be reality. [Healthy Families Florida](#), which serves families at high risk for abuse and neglect, has been thoroughly evaluated by independent third parties. The evaluations show unparalleled results:

- 98 percent of children who complete the Healthy Families Florida program are free from abuse and neglect one year later ... over 15,000 children last year.
 - 95 percent are still free from abuse and neglect three years after program completion.
- 91 percent of participants read to their child on a regular basis, promoting positive parent-child bonding that plays a powerful role in preparing young children for future success in school and life.
- 73 percent of participants, who were unemployed at enrollment, are employed when they leave the program, and
 - 82 percent improve their self-sufficiency by getting a job, getting their GED, going to college, enrolling in skill development training, finding more stable housing and other things like getting a car, so they can get to work.

Healthy Families Florida [is a smart investment!](#)

The state's leading experts on child abuse support Healthy Families: The Child Abuse Death Review Committee stated in its 2012 Annual Report:

"To avoid the costly consequences of child abuse and neglect, the legislature should increase the funding level for Healthy Families Florida, a program proven to prevent child abuse and neglect and improve the health, safety and well-being of children in high-risk families."

Communities from Pensacola to Key West support Healthy Families: They contribute over \$9 million in cash and in-kind contributions, so Healthy Families services can be provided to families in their communities.

Florida's leading law enforcement, religious, philanthropic, family support, and community leaders support Healthy Families*: United Ways, Sheriffs, Kiwanians, Catholic Bishops, and premier child abuse and neglect experts and providers strongly urge the 2013 Legislature to:

- **Maintain current Healthy Families funding levels at \$18.1 million; and**
- **Reinvest \$10 million to bring this proven program back to the FY 2009-2010 level of \$28.1 million.**

* See who supports Healthy Families Florida and help us save children, families, and tax payer dollars by sharing this dynamic [Healthy Families Florida handout](#) with legislators.