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PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS COLLABORATE ON TOWN HALL MEETING

Gainesville, FL—On Monday, April 4th, 2011, community leaders from public, private and the non-profit sectors will collaborate to host a Town Hall meeting about internet crimes against children. The meeting, in conjunction with National Child Abuse Awareness Month, is being sponsored by the ICAC Coalition, Trinity United Methodist Church, Cox Communications, and the Child Advocacy Center. The Town Hall meeting will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church from 5:30PM-7:00PM and will feature presentations by Gainesville Police Department Commander John Madsen, head of the North Florida Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and by Prosecutor Frank Williams, of the US Attorney's Office in Gainesville.

North Florida's Internet Crimes against Children Task Force, based out of GPD, serves 38 counties spanning from North Central Florida to the Panhandle. There are currently two federally funded, full time officers dedicated to these efforts in our community. Sheriff Sadie Darnell, high ranking law enforcement officers, city and county officials, and local leaders from all sectors will be in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is to raise awareness, identify the local scope of the problem, and call all concerned citizens and community leaders to act. The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome.

Trinity United Methodist Church is located at 4000 NW 53rd Avenue in Gainesville. For more information or interview opportunities please contact, Debbie Sorgi at (352) 359-4257, or via email at Debbie@homemagazinegainesville.com or Margot Wilder at (352) 376-9161 or via email at Margot@childadvocacycentergainesville.org

The Child Advocacy Center is a community-based, child-focused Center that facilitates a compassionate, multidisciplinary approach to the prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse. The Child Advocacy Center provides therapy, case management, case tracking, multidisciplinary staffings, and specialized forensic interviewing of child victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and severe forms of neglect. The Center also works with non-offending caregivers and siblings as they begin to heal from abuse and consider alternatives to violence in their homes.