



## Spider-Man: The Superhero Fighting Child Abuse

Prevent Child Abuse California has created an interesting partnership with a very familiar face...or, mask. Each year, our agency hosts an Event at the Capitol in honor of child abuse prevention month. At this event, the Marvel Super Hero Spider-Man is present to promote

awareness about the issue of child abuse prevention, getting the message across in a non-threatening way that will be remembered by children and adults for a lifetime!

The appeal and demand for Spider-Man and other Marvel Characters has been tremendous. These superheroes have been working worldwide, becoming involved in numerous awareness programs that teach children of all ages about:

- Bullying
- School Violence
- Child Abuse Awareness
- Dangers of Drugs
- Dangers of Alcohol
- Dangers of Smoking
- Safety
- The importance of Education to help fight Illiteracy

Most recently, our parent organization, Prevent Child Abuse America, has once again teamed up with Marvel Comics to bring Spider-Man to the rescue. For some kids, being back in school means facing the schoolyard bully. Bullies and peer pressure are challenges children face at school and socially every day. "How to Beat the Bully!" comic book helps kids learn strategies that prevent dangerous situations from resulting in violence. Spider-Man and friend, Jubilee, help the children in the stories resolve conflicts safely, by using words instead of fists. A list of ten tips for safety in a situation that is becoming uncontrollable is included. In Spider-Man "How to Beat the Bully," a novice in-line skater named Daniel crashes into a local bully. The comic book depicts strategies to avoid a physical altercation, both at the time of the incident and in school the next day. With effective communication Daniel defuses the bully and the situation. In Jubilee's section of the comic book, students learn to take responsibility for their actions and handle peer pressure properly. Jubilee is socializing with students who flee from a store where merchandise and patrons are disrupted. Jubilee convinces the group to return to the store and clean up the merchandise.

Through awareness programs like this, Spider-Man and Marvel Characters have been able to promote all of the good qualities that make a Super Hero, such

*Continued on page 2*



### Legislation Watch

**AB 22 (Leiber)** - If passed, would make forced trafficking as well as trafficking a minor for sexual purposes punishable as a felony.

**AB 33 (Runner)** - If passed, would make it illegal for an adult stranger to communicate with a child under 14 with intentions of luring him or her away. That crime would be punishable with imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000 or less or both. The adult's computer may also be seized if it was used to communicate with the minor.

**AB 240 (Bermudez)** - If passed, would make it a misdemeanor for

a registered sex offender to live within two miles of an elementary school.

**SB 43 (Battin)** - If passed, would give zip codes of people convicted of the following offenses on the Megan's List database: spousal rape, incest, offences involving obscene matter depicting a minor or matter depicting a minor engaging in or simulating sexual conduct, and sexual exploitation of a child.

**SB 116 (Dutton)** - Currently, if a person has legal custody over a child who is 72-hours old or younger, that person may surrender the baby to any designated drop-off location until

*Continued on page 2*



### March FLASH!

The NEW Prevent Child Abuse California website will be up and running beginning April 6, 2005. Please visit [www.pca-ca.org](http://www.pca-ca.org) to check it out!

The winner of the 2005 Heroes for Kids Art Contest was Janet Cortez, an eight year old from Lakeport Elementary (near Clear Lake). Janet's artwork will be on display at the Event at the Capitol on April 6<sup>th</sup>, be used in awards for dignitaries, and be recognized for her artistic depiction of California's First Lady, Maria Shriver.

Honorable Mention goes to Tyler Brendel, an eight year old from Maidu Elementary School whose artwork will be featured on the Event at the Capitol program cover.

Would you like to buy a license plate that supports child abuse prevention? Call 1-800-HEY-KIDS.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month! Lets all make an effort to encourage everyone to practice "It Only Takes A Minute" to improve the life of a child.



*It only takes a minute*

To Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

You can purchase your "It Only Takes a Minute" wrist bands for use this coming April and all year long.

- 50 band package @ \$.80 each = \$40
- 100 band package @ \$.80 each = \$80
- 200 band package @ \$.80 each = \$160

To order, contact [smoak@pca-ca.org](mailto:smoak@pca-ca.org)

Prices do not include shipping costs.



**Artist of the Month**  
Jazz Festival by Peter, age 12

**Legislative Eye (Continued)**

2006. If passed, SB 116 would make the end date of the program indefinite.

Bills to be reconsidered:

- AB 35 (Spitzer)- Megan's law
- AB 253 (Aghazarian)- Child abuse reporting

**Superman Continued from page 1**

as staying in school, learning to read and write, being safe and respectable and becoming responsible citizens. Spider-Man is adamant about imparting a very important message that we at Prevent Child Abuse California are attempting to convey through our public education campaign, "It Only Takes a Minute", which is that **there are tangible steps that anyone can take to prevent child abuse and neglect.** Spider-Man conveys to today's youth to "ASK FOR HELP" from a trusted adult at home or in school when confronted with an uncomfortable situation and to continue to ask for help until the problem is resolved.

For more information on Spider-Man or other Marvel character appearances, you can log on to the Marvel website at [www.marvel.com](http://www.marvel.com) or email [smoak@pca-ca.org](mailto:smoak@pca-ca.org).



**Reminder!**

**EVENT AT THE CAPITOL**

**In Honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**"Safe Children and Healthy Families are a Shared Responsibility"**

**April 6, 2005**

State Capitol, West Steps  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm



**Exhibition Expo - Spider-Man - Kids Walk -  
Entertainment - Local Dignitaries -  
Heroes for Kids Art Award**



**Save these Dates!**

**April 7, 2005**

9:00a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sacramento, CA

**Child Abuse  
Prevention Council  
Statewide Conference!**

Presented by Child Abuse Training and  
Technical Assistance Center - CATT  
& the Sierra-Sacramento Child Abuse  
Prevention Council Coalition

Registration fee: \$45

For more information contact Heather White @  
(707) 284-9536.

**Sierra-Sacramento Child  
Abuse Prevention Council  
Coalition**

**September 21, 2005**

Present:

**"In Praise of Fathers:  
Father Involvement in  
Raising Healthy, Happy  
Children"**

Drs. Cowan, UCD Berkeley &  
Dr. Hershel Swinger, Father Project,  
California State University, Los  
Angeles

For information please contact:  
Judy Knapp @ (530) 417-0256

*It only takes a minute*

To Praise and Encourage a Child



**"You just keep  
getting better  
and better at  
your drawing,  
way to go!"**

For more information on any of the activities mentioned in FYI, please contact [www.pcacasupport@pca-ca.org](mailto:www.pcacasupport@pca-ca.org)

**fyi**

*A monthly newsletter*

**Prevent Child Abuse California**

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Place  
Postage  
Here



**April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**