



**Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.**

*helping people, changing lives*

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Immediate Release**  
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## **Chautauqua Child Care Council Kicks off Month of the Young Child with "Operation Safe Child"**

*Jamestown, NY* – The Chautauqua Child Care Council in collaboration with the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office and the Chautauqua County Health Department is sponsoring an "Operation Safe Child" event.

"Operation Safe Child" will take place on Saturday, April 7, 2007, from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm, at the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena, a supporter of the event, 311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Jamestown.

"Operation Safe Child" provides new ID cards (the size of a credit card) to parents across the state. It's a voluntary initiative that will help raise awareness about child safety and will help make the current Child ID system more readily available to parents throughout New York State. Children under the age of 18 are eligible and will have their information put onto the ID card. The ID card is then presented to the parent or guardian for safe keeping.

With parent/guardian consent, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) will be able to record and store these records - information critical to expediting the return of a child if he or she becomes missing. The information gathered will be digitally recorded and stored in a separate database at DCJS. In the event DCJS receives a missing child report, the fingerprints of that child will be included in a special search file and compared against all incoming fingerprints submitted to DCJS. Once included in the database, parents or lawful guardians can request that information be purged at any time and when a child turns 18, the information will automatically be purged from the database.

The event is being held in celebration of the Month of the Young Child April 2007. The Child Care Council, a program of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc., will share information about services provided to families such as referrals to licensed and registered child care programs (including family/group family care, day care centers, and school-aged programs); assistance with obtaining help paying for child care; what to look for in a quality child care program. The Chautauqua County Health Department will be offering information on lead poisoning.

Month of the Young Child is celebrated throughout April in Chautauqua County by various organizations who work to support young children. Influenced by NAEYC's (National Association of the Education of Young Children) Week of the Young Child, various organizations and child care programs all over the U. S. host activities throughout the month of April in order to recognize the importance of quality experiences for children ages birth through 8 years. Those experiences help lay the foundation for children's future success in education and other areas.

For more information you can contact the Chautauqua Child Care Council at 1-800-424-4532.

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