# Building Healthy Communities and Preventing Child Neglect IT'S MORE THAN A FAMILY MATTER



CHILD NEGLECT is a failure to meet children's basic needs - whether the failure is the responsibility of parents, communities or society – and this void places children in harm's way.

#### FACTS about Child Neglect



**Most Common Form** of Child Maltreatment



Cognitive and **Academic Deficits** 



Social Withdrawal and Limited Peer

Interactions

Violent and **Criminal Behavior** 

of Child Maltreatment in billions of USD (2008)

Cost

ifetime productivity

total burden

**Possible Long-Term Impacts** 

### Good news IT'S PREVENTABLE

## Child Meglect within the SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL MODEL

#### **Protective Factors to the Rescue Child Neglect Risk Factors SOCIETY** SOCIETY Poverty and deprivation of basic needs Concrete Supports Lack of collective (shared) responsibility **COMMUNITY** (Neighborhood) for children Low level of importance to politicians – Concrete Supports for Parents lack of political will (Quality Child Care) Community Norming of **COMMUNITY** (Neighborhood) **SOCIETY Acceptable Parenting Behaviors** Social Connections Environmental problems COMMUNITY Neighborhood violence (Cohesion) Unemployment **FAMILY FAMILY** Inadequate housing Social isolation Knowledge of Parenting and **CHILD Child Development** Caregiver childhood adversity Individual (Early Childhood Education) • Parental Resilience (Hope) Maternal depression Situational or enduring problems Faith and Spirituality Mental health Nurturing and Attachment Substance abuse CHILD (Individual) Interpersonal family violence Attachment Apathy/hopeless Social and Emotional CHILD (Individual) **Competence of Children** Child vulnerability Young age Poor health Disabilities and behavioral challenges Unmet basic needs

To learn more about building healthy communities and preventing child neglect, visit http://ctfalliance.org/neglect

