

PLATFORM DESCRIPTION

Contestants: When composing your Platform Statement consider the three questions below. Your Platform Statement will be shared with the judges. See next page for a sample Platform Statement.

FONT: Times New Roman, 10pt

Margins: Top, .5"

Bottom, .5"

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- 1. Clearly define the platform issue to which you are sincerely committed and for which you will be an activist during your year of service.**
- 2. What, if any, are your most significant accomplishments to date in regard to your platform issue?**
- 3. Specifically, what do you wish to accomplish during your year of service as an activist for your platform issue?**

Name:

Preventing Child Abuse

More than 3,000,000 children are abused each year in the United States. The cost of abuse is estimated at \$258 million per day. Over 72,000 children, in Kentucky, were reported abused last year. It is possible to prevent the abuse of today's children. To *prevent* the abuse, society must be proactive, focusing its involvement and dollars on *prevention* rather than *healing*. I am committed to raising public awareness and informing citizens about the dangers and prevention of child abuse. Encouraging as many volunteers as possible, my goal is to ensure every child the right to be safe, healthy, and treated with respect. Together, we *can* make it happen!

I have developed a partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCA – KY), the states leading organization in abuse prevention. I am a partner in their commitment to developing and promoting effective strategies, programs, education and public awareness. My collaboration with PCA – KY allows me to remain educated and informed; and, affords me the opportunity to travel into Kentucky's communities to give voice to abused children who cannot be heard. Expanding the partnership, I encourage neighborhoods and local communities to become engaged in awareness and prevention of abuse.

I have volunteered for two years at the "Home of the Innocents" in Louisville, KY. I work with abused elementary age children (who have been removed from their home) providing guidance and encouragement in completion of their homework, ensuring daily showers are taken, and supervising "games and movie time." I am currently enrolled in training to volunteer at "The Center for Women and Families" in Louisville, KY.

Public education is significant in reducing the number of abused children. I created a brochure, "Together, We Can Make It Happen: Preventing Child Abuse." This brochure answers the who, what, where, and why's of child abuse. This brochure has been distributed to many businesses and civic organizations.

I spoke at Grayson Elementary School, Grayson, KY, at a community candlelight vigil for child abuse. I spoke of the importance of community involvement in the prevention of child abuse and challenged the citizens of Grayson to become aware of abuse issues in their community.

I organized a Homecoming Teddy Bear Drive, at Bellarmine University, for abused children. I gave an interview to the Courier Journal about child abuse – the statistics and what one person can do to help.

I spoke to the Elizabethtown Junior Women's Club, Elizabethtown, KY, about the role they can play at home, in schools, and in their community in preventing child abuse.

I spoke to the Elizabethtown Women's Club, Elizabethtown, KY, about how their civic organization can play a part in Kentucky's fight to prevent child abuse.

I am in the final stages of developing a website, www.reportchildabuseky.com, which offers anonymous reporting of abuse. The website also answers frequently asked questions about abuse, provides paperwork to complete in order to file a report, and documents telephone numbers of legal authorities, as well as, the Parent HelpLine, family support hotlines, etc....

I plan to continue my partnership with PCA – KY, promoting my website, encouraging community outreach, and fostering public awareness. Holding the title of Miss Kentucky would allow me to take my partnership to a national level and collaborate with the Prevent Child Abuse America organization. The "power of the Miss Kentucky crown" would validate my website and my commitment, helping me give voice to "silenced" children on a national scale. Together, we *can* make it happen!