

A Message to My Fellow Racing Fans

I can't imagine what it must feel like to...



- ◆ sit alone for hours in a car in a parking lot late at night when you are only three years old.
- ◆ come home from second grade each day to take care of my younger brothers and sisters because my parents have chosen drugs and alcohol over us -- their children.
- ◆ be afraid to go home because the frustrations of my parents' day will be taken out on me with belts or fists.
- ◆ be permanently separated from your brothers and sisters because there is no one who is willing to take all of you.
- ◆ know that if you had not been placed in foster care, you may not have survived your own childhood.

And yet, so many of the child victims of abuse and neglect don't have to imagine. They know. They know because they have lived it.

Last year, I told you about giving my blue ribbon lapel pin to a woman who saw me wearing it during a live broadcast from Texas Motor Speedway. She had been rescued from an abusive home more than 40 years ago, and wanted a blue ribbon so she, too, could let others know that child abuse can be prevented.

You see, abused children have no one to speak for them and often have no one to care for them when their home is no longer a safe place to live. That's why I wear a blue ribbon, and that's why you'll see blue ribbons on the cars as they race on Sunday, on raceway staff, you may even be able to spot them on drivers. We wear the blue ribbon as a positive reminder of our collective responsibility to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Won't you join us in showing how much NASCAR fans care about children?

Wear a blue ribbon here at Texas Motor Speedway and at home during the month of April (National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month).

You can get your blue ribbon lapel pin while you are at Texas Motor Speedway at Raceway Ministries site is located, just east of Lone Star Circle, outside the raceway, off Turn 3, near Gate 11, between Elliott Drive and Row Q.

And when you get home you can find ways to help children in your community at or get more blue ribbon pins at www.blueribbons4kids.org.



I'll be wearing my pin. I hope to see you wearing yours.



Jeanne Zelasko