

#15,520

**Proclamation:  
Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, April 2019**

FILED FOR RECORD  
at 1:30 o'clock  
MAR 26 2019  
By JENNIFER LINDENZWEIG  
County Clerk, Hunt County, TX

**WHEREAS**, there were nearly 65,000 cases of child abuse confirmed in Texas in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 7 children are maltreated every hour in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, every 8 minutes there is a confirmed case of child abuse in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, each day in Texas, 182 children are confirmed victims; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 3 children die from abuse or neglect on average every week in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, last year in Texas, 56 children a day were removed from their home and entered the foster care system; and

**WHEREAS**, last year in Texas, a total of 52,397 children were in the legal care of the state for their own protection; and

**WHEREAS**, in fiscal year 2018, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services served a total of 290,000 children who, by no fault of their own, became involved with the DFPS' Child Protective Services due to allegations and confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hunt County, Child Protective Services worked with, on average, 166 children and their families each month of 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hunt County in 2018, Child Protective Services conducted 1,087 investigations of child abuse and/or neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, last year in Texas, a total of 10,856 Court Appointed Special Advocates® – or CASA volunteers – who are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest, advocated for 30,136 children in the foster care system; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hunt County, CASA volunteers advocated for 328 children last year, serving 100 percent of the Hunt County children who were placed into the foster care system; and

**WHEREAS**, CASA for Hunt County volunteers' total hours and mileage in 2018 saved Hunt County taxpayers \$174,285 by volunteering their advocacy work to Hunt County's abused children; and

**WHEREAS**, Children's Advocacy Center – CAC – is the front door for the child abuse investigation process to provide a collaborative response to children impacted by abuse; last year in Texas 70 Children's Advocacy Centers across the state served more than 58,000 children; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, every 15 hours there was a confirmed child sexual abuse case; and

**WHEREAS**, every child through the CAC has a chance for their voice to be heard and the healing process to begin; and in Hunt County, CAC staff and volunteers served 632 children last year; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and

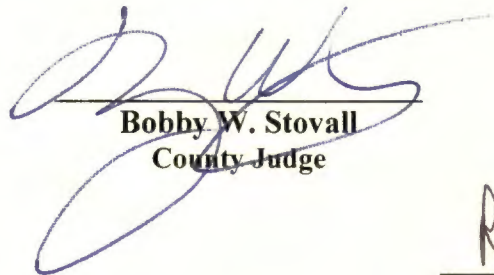
**WHEREAS**, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting Texas' future; and

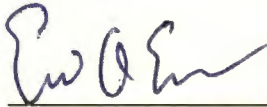
**WHEREAS**, CASA for Hunt County, Hunt County Children's Advocacy Center, Hunt County's Child Protective Services, foster parents, teachers, counselors, attorneys, judges and others work to ensure that children in our community have the opportunity to grow up in safe, loving, permanent homes.

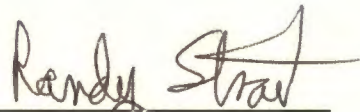


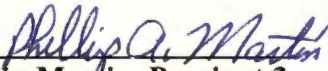
**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Commissioner's Court of Hunt County, Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION and AWARENESS MONTH in Hunt County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

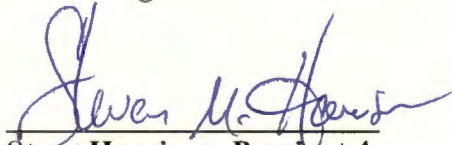
Signed this 26 day of March, 2019.

  
Bobby W. Stovall  
County Judge


  
Eric Evans, Precinct 1

  
Randy Strait, Precinct 2

  
Phillip Martin, Precinct 3

  
Steve Harrison, Precinct 4



Attested to:   
Jennifer Lindenzweig, County Clerk