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FILED FOR RECORD
at 1:30 o'clock P M

Proclamation:
Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, April 2023

MAR 28 2023

BECKY LANDRUM
County Clerk, Hunt County, Tex.
By 

WHEREAS, every 8 minutes in Texas, there is at least one confirmed case of child abuse;

WHEREAS, each day in Texas, just over 100 children were confirmed victims of child abuse in 2022;

WHEREAS, in 2022 in Texas, a total of 37,833 children were in the legal care of the state for their own protection;

WHEREAS, in Texas and throughout the nation, there are many individuals and agencies who are working to prevent child abuse, to raise awareness about child abuse, and to help the child victims;

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2022, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services hundreds of thousands of children and their families became involved with the DFPS' Child Protective Services due to allegations and confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect.;

WHEREAS, in Hunt County in 2022, Child Protective Services served 211 of the county's children who, by no fault of their own, were placed into the state's care due to alleged child abuse and/or neglect;

WHEREAS, in Hunt County, Child Protective Services worked with, on average, 53 children and their families each month of 2022;

WHEREAS, in 2022 in Texas, there were total of 9,590 Court Appointed Special Advocates® – or CASA volunteers – who are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest,

WHEREAS, last year, CASA volunteers involved with one of the 73 CASA programs in Texas advocated for 23,943 children in foster care system, giving over 2 million volunteer hours to serve these child victims;

WHEREAS, in Hunt County, CASA volunteers advocated for 177 children last year, serving 100 percent of the Hunt County children who were placed into the foster care system;

WHEREAS, CASA for Hunt County volunteers gave 16,813 hours and traveled 30,033 miles in order to serve the children in which they are appointed, saving Hunt County taxpayers about \$265,000 with volunteer services;

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 67,558 children each year, with 45% between ages of 6 and 12 years old;

WHEREAS, in 2022, approximately every 15 hours there was a confirmed child sexual abuse case;

WHEREAS, 98 percent of the child victims knew their alleged perpetrator.

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 737 children last year;

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;

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;

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, nurturing environment;

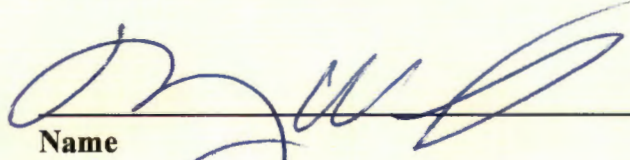
WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby W. Stovall, County Judge for Hunt County, Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2023 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 on the 28th day of March, 2023



Name

Hunt County Judge

Title

