

# *Proclamation*

## **DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

*Whereas*, child abuse and neglect are serious and growing problems affecting more than 3.1 million of our nation's children annually, and over 3,400 children locally; and

*Whereas*, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly, and lifelong problems, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior, which affects all of society; increased public awareness of the devastating problem of child abuse and neglect is our strongest weapon in the fight to end it; and

*Whereas*, many community organizations, such as all the local Exchange Clubs: Indian River, Treasure Coast, Vero Beach, Fellsmere and Sebastian, the Hibiscus Children's Center and other organizations who make children a top priority, take action to support the physical, social, emotional, and educational development and competency of all children; and

*Whereas*, during the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse Florida in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, will implement Pinwheels for Prevention, a statewide campaign promoting awareness of healthy child development and positive parenting practices. The National Exchange Club will honor all children by wearing blue on Mondays during the month of April.

*Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida*, that the month of April, 2024, be designated as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Indian River County, and all residents are urged to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

Adopted this 9th day of April, 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Susan Adams, Chairman

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Joseph E. Flescher, Vice Chairman

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Joseph H. Earman

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Deryl Loar

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Laura Moss