

THURSTON COUNTY

# Proclamation

## Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month

*WHEREAS*, the future of Thurston County rests in the hands of one of our most vulnerable and cherished assets: our children; and

*WHEREAS*, since 2010, Thurston County has continued to experience an increased rate of child abuse and neglect that has come to the attention of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; and

*WHEREAS*, child abuse continues to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems and Thurston County has the eighth highest rate of Adverse Childhood Experience scores in Washington State; and

*WHEREAS*, our communities are stronger when all citizens are engaged in preventing child maltreatment, and are involved in supporting families to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children, which will give them the opportunity to become caring, contributing members of their communities; and

*WHEREAS*, the Thurston Thrives Education and Resilience Action Team is collaboratively working with community organizers to bring attention to domestic violence in our community and to identify preventative measures to reduce harm to children; and

*WHEREAS*, we, as Thurston County residents, continue our commitment to protecting all members of our community, and call upon citizens to join together to increase public safety and prevent further abuse and neglect of our children.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, the Thurston County Board of Health proclaims April 2018 as **Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month** in Thurston County and calls upon all citizens, communities, state agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

*Adopted this 10th day of April, 2018*

BOARD OF HEALTH

*Bud Blake*

*Vol 7*

*Gary Edward*

