

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, children are the foundation for a prosperous and innovative society, and the foundation for a child’s growth and development is established when every community takes responsibility for creating healthy environments where our children can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County supports the Strengthening Families Protective Factors that reduce abuse and neglect through promoting Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Parental Resilience, Concrete Supports in Times of Need, and the Social and Emotional Competence of Children; and

WHEREAS, a child’s early experiences of being nurtured and developing a bond with consistent, caring adults affect all aspects of behavior and development, and is associated with better academic grades, healthier choices, improved physical and mental health, positive peer interactions, and an increased ability to cope with stress; and

WHEREAS, the child abuse rate for Thurston County has increased greatly since 2010 and 1 in 4 county high school age youth have experienced physical child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County recognizes it is the responsibility of every adult to protect children from all forms of Adverse Childhood Experiences, including abuse and neglect, and recognizes the need for adults, organizations, schools, and communities to form protective barriers around children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs are essential and succeed because of community partnerships created among citizens, social service agencies, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, civic organizations and other child-serving agencies; and

WHEREAS, April 5, 2019 is “Go to Blue Day”, a day when everyone is encouraged to wear blue to build awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention and to inspire change by focusing on community activities and public policies that prioritize prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Thurston County Commissioners hereby proclaims April as **Child Abuse Prevention month** in Thurston County, and urges all citizens to actively participate in the care, well-being and protection of our children.

ADOPTED this second day of April, 2019

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

