

# *Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week*

*February 7 - 14, 2020*

**WHEREAS:** The health and well-being of all children throughout the City of Gahanna are of paramount importance to the Gahanna community; and

**WHEREAS:** Thousands of children are born with birth defects every year, including approximately 40,000 children (1 in 110) in the United States who begin life with one of more than thirty-five identified forms of congenital heart defects; and

**WHEREAS:** Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defects and can be fatal due to their seriousness, a lack of effective medical intervention options, and the limited availability of infant donor hearts; and

**WHEREAS:** The origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more readily identifiable, and the range of surgical options are expanding continuously, thanks to research efforts and field experiences by doctors and scientists that expand our knowledge every day; and

**WHEREAS:** There still is much to learn about the causes of and effective treatments for congenital heart defects, and it is important for parents, family members, pediatricians, and nurses to recognize the warning signs associated with congenital heart defects among newborns so that they may provide proper treatment as early as possible; and

**WHEREAS:** Many families in Gahanna are directly or indirectly affected by infant illness and death caused by congenital heart defects, and the City of Gahanna applauds the efforts of doctors and scientists everywhere who are working diligently to solve this medical mystery and to improve the quality of life for our youngest residents and their families.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, do urge Gahanna citizens to join me in raising awareness of this serious health matter in an effort to improve early diagnosis. I do hereby proclaim February 7 – 14, 2020, as

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, to be affixed on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty.

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Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor