



Gahanna

Proclamation

Autism Acceptance Month

April 2022

WHEREAS: Autism Awareness Month was first established in April 1970 to raise awareness about Autism spectrum disorders and increase understanding and acceptance of individuals with Autism; and

WHEREAS: In 2021, the Autism Society of America shifted the focus to “Autism Acceptance Month” in an effort to ignite acceptance and change through improved opportunities in education, employment, accessible housing, affordable health care, and comprehensive long-term services for persons with Autism; and

WHEREAS: Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States, affecting more than three million people (an estimated 1 in 54 children) regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or socio-economic background; and

WHEREAS: For more than 20 years, Gahanna residents Gwendolyn and Gene Harshaw have been tireless advocates for families dealing with Autism, serving as coaches and parent mentors and speaking with organizations across the country to generate awareness of Autism-related issues; and

WHEREAS: Gwen Harshaw’s advocacy work led to her current role as Program Director for OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence), where she focuses on opportunities for community involvement for families impacted by Autism; and

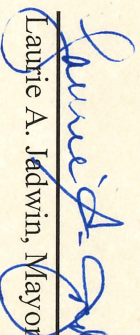
WHEREAS: In partnership with OCALI, the Autism Society of Central Ohio (ASCO), and the Gahanna Foundation, Gwen and Gene are launching Band Together Columbus in August 2022, a monthly Autism-friendly open mic event based in Gahanna that is intended to provide sustainable recurring social interaction for individuals with Autism and other disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The City of Gahanna is honored to observe Autism Acceptance Month in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder and opportunities to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families affected by Autism.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge Gahanna citizens to join me in both recognizing the efforts of the Harshaw Family in advocating for awareness and acceptance of Autism, and also fostering acceptance of families impacted by Autism through support and opportunities in everyday life. I do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as

Autism Acceptance Month

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have herunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, to be affixed on this 1st day of April in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two.


Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor

