



# *Proclamation*

## *Child Abuse Prevention Month*

### *April 2024*

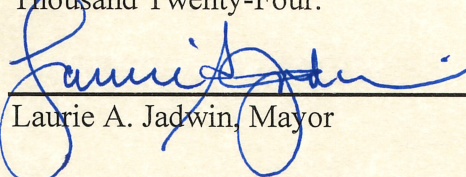
- WHEREAS:** National Child Abuse Prevention Month was first recognized by President Reagan in 1983 to raise awareness of the need for families and communities to work together to prevent child abuse and neglect, to protect children, and to strengthen families; and
- WHEREAS:** The Center for Healthy Families, in collaboration with Franklin County Children Services (“FCCS”), join together to recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month, an important annual observance to raise awareness about the critical issue of child abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS:** 2023 statistics in Franklin County alone show nearly 28,000 reports and calls were made to the Franklin County Child Abuse Hotline, with more than 44% of the referrals being forwarded for investigation of concerns about a child being physically abused; and
- WHEREAS:** Child abuse and neglect occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, in all religions, and at all levels of education, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and
- WHEREAS:** Data also show that Black girls and young women are disproportionately represented in the statistics – in 2021 more than 7,200 incidents were reported where they were referred for abuse and/or neglect; and
- WHEREAS:** Child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for its victims, and communities must make every effort to promote activities that create strong and thriving children; and
- WHEREAS:** Effective prevention activities succeed because of partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and
- WHEREAS:** Our children are our most valuable resource, and the City of Gahanna is proud to partner with the Center for Healthy Families and FCCS in drawing awareness to their work and the need to work together to protect and strengthen our children and families.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge citizens to recognize this month by dedicating themselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children, and do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

## ***NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH***



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

  
Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor