



WHEREAS, our children represent the potential of our community to achieve that promise; and,

WHEREAS, the children of our community are reliant on our adult citizens to provide the necessary resources to achieve their potential; a stable environment including adequate shelter, nourishment, and education; and also freedom from physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual abuse and subsequent trauma; and,

WHEREAS, professionals across multiple disciplines regularly convene to address needs and develop resources to educate and inform the public of child safety concerns, including: nonprofit agencies, public schools, department of health and human services, law enforcement, the judicial system, and support systems including the medical, faith, and counseling communities; and,

WHEREAS, evidence based practices show that regular and consistent public education regarding child abuse prevention, including models of awareness, appropriate preventative action and systematic therapeutic treatment in fact significantly reduces reports of child abuse over time in a community; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County and the State of North Carolina are committed to preventing child abuse, and calls upon citizens from all walks of life to participate in that prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims April 2016 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Gaston County and urges its citizens to join together in creating a safe and nurturing community where children can achieve their potential and promise free from abuse.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Tracy L. Philbeck

Joe D. Carpenter

Mickey Price

Allen R. Fraley

Jason Williams, Vice-Chairman