



- WHEREAS, all children have the right to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment free from abuse and neglect; and,
- WHEREAS, children are the key to our community's future success, prosperity and quality of life and, while children are our most valuable resource, they are also our most vulnerable; and,
- WHEREAS, abuse of children occurs in all segments of our society, in rural, suburban, and urban areas and among all racial, ethnic, and income groups; and,
- WHEREAS, child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on the involvement among all people; and,
- WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and,
- WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse cases arise from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and,
- WHEREAS, child abuse not only directly harms children, but also increases the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse and health problems such as heart disease and obesity; and,
- WHEREAS, we acknowledge we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of April 2018

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH

and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby strengthening the community in which we live.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher, Vice-Chairman

Donald J. Grant, Jr.

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 24th Day of April 2018