

Shasta County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month April 2023

WHEREAS, as a society, we have a responsibility to nurture and protect our children, helping to ensure they become healthy and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranks child abuse among America's top public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which include physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, neglect, and parental illness or stress, have a significant impact on a child's future; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies confirm a direct link between child abuse and a significantly greater risk later in life for substance abuse, criminal behavior, suicide, eating disorders, smoking, and premature death from chronic disease, cancer, and other serious illnesses; and

WHEREAS, educating our community on the prevention of child abuse and neglect becomes a priority as an effort to support parents and caregivers in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Shasta County had almost three times the number of substantiated child abuse allegations incidents per 1,000 children than the California state-average; and

WHEREAS, the Shasta County Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council strengthens families in our community by building protective factors to ensure children are valued and supported, providing parents with caregiver opportunities to receive social connections, knowledge, parenting and child development, and concrete support in times of needs, ensuring all children will grow to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, in Shasta County, there are numerous committed agencies, schools, parents, relatives, community volunteers, public policymakers, and professionals who are collaborating their efforts to eliminate child abuse and neglect in the County, providing pathways to hope and healing for children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Shasta joins in declaring April 2023 to be *Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month* in Shasta County and encourages our community to join the efforts of all our partners to prevent child abuse and neglect, building healthy, safe, and nurturing families and communities.

Patrick Jones, Chair

March 28, 2023

Date