



# Proclamation

## Child Abuse Prevention Month (P23-03)

April, 2023

- WHEREAS,** regardless of who they are or the circumstances of their birth, all children have the right to safe, secure, and supportive environments, free from abuse and neglect.
- WHEREAS,** April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and
- WHEREAS,** during Prevention Month, Virginians are reminded of the courage it takes to raise a child and that all parents have the right to the support and knowledge which child rearing demands; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse is one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with scientific studies documenting the link between child abuse and neglect and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse can disrupt early brain development, and serious chronic stress can impair the development of nervous and immune systems; and
- WHEREAS,** children are the foundation of a sustainable and prosperous society, and our prosperity as a state and nation is built on a foundation of healthy child development; and
- WHEREAS,** creating communities where families can access an array of supports and resources to address the social, emotional and physical health of their children is the best way to combat child abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** effective child abuse programs succeed because of partnerships created through Blue Ridge Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) and includes Shenandoah Valley Social Services, the Valley Children's Advocacy Center, Blue Ridge Court Appointed Special Advocates, Valley Community Service Board, the Office on Youth, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community; and
- WHEREAS,** displaying a pinwheel during the month of April will serve as a positive reminder that together, we can prevent child abuse and neglect, and by doing so, keep children safe;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by Waynesboro City Council that April, 2023, is hereby designated as

### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in the City of Waynesboro, and Waynesboro City Council calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.