

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY PROCLAMATION

National Child Abuse Month – April 2023

WHEREAS, April is known around the world as Child Abuse Prevention Month and child maltreatment is a serious and prevalent public health problem in the United States; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are common with at least 1 in 7 children experiencing child abuse or neglect each year; and

WHEREAS, children who are abused or neglected are at an increased risk for experiencing future violence, victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences (“ACEs”), are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years) which may include experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect, witnessing violence in the home or community, and are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adolescence and adulthood; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are a serious problem affecting every segment of our larger community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, we are part of a greater community that is working to prevent and detect ACEs to help shape the future for Grays Harbor County; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners that April 2023 is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In doing so, the Board encourages all people in Grays Harbor County to detect and prevent child abuse, and to improve the quality of life for all children and families.

DATED this 4th day of April, 2023.

ATTEST:

Wendy Chatham
Wendy Chatham, Clerk of the Board

Date: 4-4-23

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY**

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Jill Warne, Chair, District 1

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