



Proclamation

Autism Acceptance Month

April 2023

WHEREAS: "Autism Acceptance Month," previously named "Autism Awareness Month," was established by the Autism Society of America to foster change and promote an inclusive community where autistic individuals are embraced and supported to achieve the highest quality of life possible; and

WHEREAS: Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States, affecting more than three million people (an estimated 1 in 54 children) regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or socio-economic background; and

WHEREAS: Gahanna residents Gwendolyn and Gene Harshaw have been tireless advocates for families dealing with Autism for more than two decades, serving as coaches and parent mentors, and speaking with organizations across the country to generate awareness of Autism-related issues; and

WHEREAS: In 2022, the Harshaws, in partnership with the Autism Society Central Ohio, the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), and the Gahanna Sanctuary, launched Band Together Central Ohio (BTCO) in the City of Gahanna to create an opportunity for individuals with autism (and all abilities) to create and perform music on an open stage; and

WHEREAS: Since its' inception in Gahanna, BTCO has grown exponentially, with the event to be featured on the April 2023 edition of the Autism Puzzle NBC4 telecast to generate even greater awareness to inclusive opportunities for individuals with autism; and

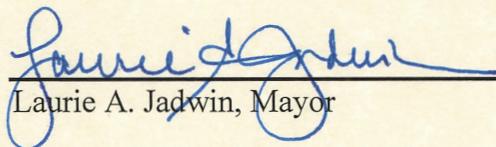
WHEREAS: The City of Gahanna is honored to observe Autism Acceptance Month in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder and opportunities to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families affected by Autism, and to recognize and commend the Harshaw family for their commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families navigating this condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge Gahanna citizens to join me in both celebrating the efforts of the Harshaw Family in advocating for awareness and acceptance of Autism, and also fostering acceptance of families impacted by Autism through support and opportunities in everyday life. I do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as



Autism Acceptance Month

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, to be affixed on this 3rd day of April in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.


Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor