



Proclamation

*National Child Abuse
Prevention Month*

April 2023

WHEREAS: National Child Abuse Prevention Month was first recognized by President Reagan in 1983 to raise awareness of the need for families and communities to work together to prevent child abuse and neglect, to protect children, and to strengthen families; and

WHEREAS: Child abuse and neglect occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, in all religions, and at all levels of education, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS: From 2020-2021, nearly 13,000 incidents of child abuse were reported in Franklin County, with 47% described as physical abuse and 9% as sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS: Of the nearly 13,000 incidents reported, Black girls and young women were disproportionately impacted by abuse and/or neglect, representing more than 7,200 of the incidents reported; and

WHEREAS: Child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for its victims, and communities must make every effort to promote activities that create strong and thriving children; and

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

WHEREAS: The work of The Center for Healthy Families, in partnership with Franklin County Children Services, illuminates that working together to increase awareness of child abuse and promoting the social and emotional well-being of children in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment remains the best defense for prevention of child abuse; and

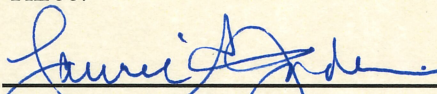
WHEREAS: Our children are our most valuable resource, and the City of Gahanna is proud to partner with the Center in drawing awareness to their work and the need to work together to protect and strengthen our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge citizens to recognize this month by dedicating themselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children, and do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION 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 1st day of April in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.



Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor