



## AID IN CRISIS

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

WHEREAS Nearly 700,000 children are abused in the U.S annually as an estimated 683,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in 2015, the most recent year for which there is national data; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of not only Barbour county but our nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between organizations such as Women's Aid In Crisis, the Barbour County Family Resource Center, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the child welfare system, the Barbour County Board of Education, the Barbour County Health Department, Heart and Hand Ministries, faith-based organizations, businesses and the diligent law enforcement agencies in our county; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

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, nurturing environment.

WHEREAS, Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Suzi Weckert, Barbour County Commission President, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2019 as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH** in Barbour County, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

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