

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the future prosperity of Hillsborough County, Florida depends on nurturing the healthy development of the approximately 300,000 children currently living, growing, and learning within our diverse community, and research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, in early childhood, traumatic events of abuse, domestic violence, divorce, incarcerated parents or caregivers, and neglect can have long term negative effects on the health and well-being of children, and it is vital that communities work together to increase awareness about child abuse and how to stop it because prevention remains the best defense for children, and it takes a collaborative effort among neighbors, community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement, the courts, and government agencies to succeed in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the **Children's Board of Hillsborough County**, established in 1988, strives to invest in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in the community, its vision is to be recognized as one of the top five places in the nation to raise children, and the organization is committed to reframing the message of child abuse prevention for child welfare and other social service agencies to a message of educational, emotional, physical and social prosperity for all children to ensure they are healthy and safe, developmentally on track, and ready to learn and succeed; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and the Florida Department of Children and Families, along with its partners including Prevent Child Abuse Florida, and the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign are engaging communities throughout Hillsborough County in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and types of concrete support families need, especially during **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, held annually in April; and

WHEREAS, all children have the right to grow and reach their full potential in safe and secure homes, neighborhoods and communities, and it is incumbent on each resident in our community to value, nurture, support, and advocate for our children and their well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2020 as

"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all individuals and organizations to make children a top priority and to join in this observance by urging residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 1st day of April, 2020.



Jane Castor

Mayor