

# ~ P R O C L A M A T I O N ~

**WHEREAS,** every child deserves to grow up in a nurturing environment, free from abuse, neglect, violence, or endangerment of any kind; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 2,200 Clark County children were subjects of child abuse reports in 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** the Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center responded to 679 children who were the most seriously harmed by physical and sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** assisting children and families early makes common sense as well as fiscal sense. In addition to saving people the trauma of more intensive services later in life, prevention and early intervention services save money; and

**WHEREAS,** effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among the courts, social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement and the business community; and

**WHEREAS,** all citizens should become more aware of child abuse within the community and become involved in its prevention and supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

**WHEREAS,** prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Clark County Council does hereby proclaim April 2023 to be

## ~ Child Abuse Prevention Month ~

in Clark County, Washington, and urges all citizens to increase their participation in efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.


Signed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023


CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR CLARK COUNTY,  
WASHINGTON

  
Karen Dill Bowerman, Chair

  
Glen Yung, Councilor

  
Michelle Belkot, Councilor

  
Gary Medvigy, Councilor

  
Sue Marshall, Councilor