



Proclaiming
April 2024

Child Abuse Prevention Month in Ventura County

Whereas, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect, encouraging individuals and communities to keep children safe, provide support to families, and raise children and youth to be happy, secure, and thriving adults; and

Whereas, every minute of every day, a child is reported abused in California; in Ventura County during fiscal year 2022-2023, the child abuse reporting line handled 17,844 child abuse and neglect calls, 2,846 referrals were investigated, and an average of 782 children and families each month were provided with services and supports to overcome abuse and neglect in Ventura County; and

Whereas, child abuse and neglect are often multi-generational. Early detection, intervention, and treatment are critical to ending the cycle of abuse and to maintaining the integrity of the family; and

Whereas, during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 crisis in Ventura County, there were many dedicated agencies, parents, relatives, community volunteers, public policymakers, and professionals that are collaborating their efforts to eliminate child abuse in the county and give our children & families love, hope, security and safety; and

Whereas, services to promote prevention and address child abuse include the child abuse hotline and additional resources for families under stress, such as access to healthcare, basic needs, and family resource centers; and

Whereas, this month will provide an opportunity to acknowledge those committed to child abuse and neglect prevention and to raise the awareness of the community, employers, and elected officials of the need to improve the quality, availability, and accessibility of child abuse and neglect prevention, intervention and treatment programs; and

Whereas, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by strengthening families and promoting the five protective factors: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and Social-Emotional Competence of Children. We each have a role to play in strengthening families and building a child, youth, and family wellness system, ensuring children are valued and supported; and

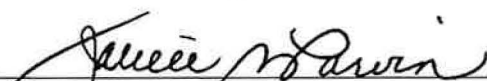
Whereas, as individuals, we can help nurture and protect the children in our community by supporting parents and caregivers and surrounding mandated reporters with community support. It only takes a minute to brighten a child's life with praise, encouragement, and love. May we remember to listen to and watch the children around us, to have patience, and to allow them the opportunity to enjoy the journey of childhood.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in proclaiming April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Ventura County and encourages all residents to actively participate in ending child abuse in our community. Now More Than Ever, We Can Strengthen Families Together.

Be It Further Resolved that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors commends The Partnership for Safe Families & Communities of Ventura County, The Designated Child Abuse Prevention Council, Ventura County Behavioral Health, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Ventura County Human Services Agency, Ventura County Public Health, The Coalition for Family Harmony, Child Development Resources, Interface Children & Family Services, Kids & Families Together, Aspiranet, First 5 Ventura County, Naval Base Ventura County, Ventura Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel, United Parents, Landon Pediatric, all law enforcement agencies, partnering members and all the outstanding volunteers for the fine work they do on behalf of children and promoting a community committed to safe, healthy, peaceful families.

Presented on this 9th day of April 2024


Matt LaVere, Supervisor 1st District


Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor 4th District


Chair of the Board of Supervisors
Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District


Jeff Gorell, Supervisor 2nd District


Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District