



## **Proclamation**

*Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County, Florida*

**WHEREAS**, Florida's future prosperity depends on our next generation; it is imperative that we do everything we can to nurture the healthy development of over 19.5 million children currently living, growing, and learning within our many diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse is a crime against humanity that affects more than 315,000 children in the United States each year; 4,921 child abuse reports were made to the Florida Abuse Hot Line in 2017 from Manatee County alone; and

**WHEREAS**, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly, and lifelong problems, in addition to possible social, criminal, and academic difficulties, affecting all of society and directly affecting the child's emotional, physical, and mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida data shows there were an estimated 447 children removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect in 2017 and 5 deaths in Manatee County. Of those reported cases, 59 percent of the children involved had multiple, verified findings of abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, abandonment, exploitation, and/or substance exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and can seek support systems in time of need or trouble are more resilient, less isolated, and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals, businesses, schools, and community- and faith-based organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the emotional, social, physical, academic, and mental development and wellbeing of all children; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse in Manatee County and Pinwheels for Prevention, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Manatee Children's Services, Manatee Sheriff's Office, Healthy Start, Safe Children's Coalition, and all agencies dedicated to the wellbeing of children and families, will be engaging in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and healthy family relationships within our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that April 2018 shall be known, designated, and set aside as

### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

in Manatee County, Florida, and that the Board encourages all Manatee County residents to engage in activities with a purpose of strengthening families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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*Priscilla Trace, Chairman*

**ATTEST:** *Angelina Colonnese  
Clerk of the Circuit Court*

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