



# Proclamation

*Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County, Florida*

**WHEREAS**, Florida's future prosperity depends on our next generation and it is imperative that we do everything we can to nurture the healthy development of over 4.5 million children currently living, growing, and learning within our many diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse is a crime against humanity that affects over 7.5 million children in the United States each year with over 7,218 child abuse reports made to the Florida Abuse Hot Line in 2018 from Manatee County alone; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Florida data shows there were an estimated 15,458 children removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect in 2018, and 452 children removed in Manatee County; of those reported cases, 34 percent of the children involved had multiple verified findings of abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, abandonment, exploitation, or substance exposure within the year of the report being called; 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 promoting healthy family relationships within our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that April 2019 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 communicates to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019.

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

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*Stephen R. Jonsson, Chairman*

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

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