



Proclamation

WHEREAS, children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children to ensure that all children grow to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, the Florida Department of Children and Families, along with Kids Central Inc., Kimberly's Center, Marion County Schools, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Safe Kids Coalition, Florida Department of Health, Marion County, The Centers Inc., Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Guardian ad Litem Program, Ocala Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Center, Ocala Police Department, the Bikers Against Child Abuse, and the Marion County Children's Alliance, will be engaging communities throughout Florida to renew a collaborative commitment to break the cycle of abuse and neglect, to coordinate efforts to promote awareness of healthy child development, and to empower positive parenting practices and the types of concrete support families need within their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben Marciano, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 as:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 8th day of April 2024.



Ben Marciano

Ben Marciano, Mayor
City of Ocala