

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Polk County is home to over 141,716 children that deserve to live and grow in healthy, safe, and nurturing environments, free from threats of violence and harm; and Florida's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of over 4 million children currently living, growing and learning within our many diverse communities; and

Whereas, research shows that safe and nurturing relationships and stimulating and stable environments improve brain development and child well being, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

Whereas, research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

Whereas, during the month of April, public and private agencies, educators, child advocates and community residents will be working together to positively impact the lives of children and families through education and awareness; and

Whereas, Prevent Child Abuse Florida's Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign engages public and private sector agencies, early learning professionals, businesses, advocates for children and youth, and residents throughout the state in activities promoting awareness and understanding of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and the types of concrete support families need within their communities because prevention remains the best defense for our children.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Eugene Fultz, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lake Wales, in the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim the Month of April 2014 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

And, urge all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect and assure every child is valued, nurtured, and experiences success.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Lake Wales, Florida to be affixed this 1st Day of April 2014.

Attest:

Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk

Eugene Fultz, Mayor