

PROCLAMATION

Child Abuse Prevention Month - April 2016

April 13, 2016

WHEREAS, Lancaster County's greatest resource is our children, it is crucial that we take on the responsibility to guide and nurture their development. We strive to ensure every child in our County has the opportunity to have a healthy and safe upbringing by working together to prevent child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Each year, thousands of reports of suspected child abuse are made to Pennsylvania's Child Abuse Registry and many more go unreported. In 2015, Lancaster County Children and Youth investigated over 2,050 cases of suspected abuse. Child abuse is a tragedy for our children and a tragedy for our County. When children are able to grow and develop in a caring and nurturing home environment, they are much more likely to have brighter futures, and make a positive impact in their community; and

WHEREAS, We must work collaboratively to protect the children of Lancaster County. We applaud Lancaster County's law enforcement community, Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency and other public services, as well as the countless community organizations, schools, businesses and concerned citizens who are joining forces in this endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created between families, law enforcement, the courts, social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, and the business community, who work hard to nurture and support the victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

WHEREAS, All citizens should become more aware of child abuse and work to prevent it within Lancaster County and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA do hereby proclaim April 2016 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Lancaster County and call upon all citizens to increase their participation in efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the community in which we live.

Dennis P. Stuckey, Chairman

Joshua G. Parsons, Vice Chairman

Craig E. Lehman

Board of Commissioners of

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania