



Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Whereas, Childhaven has worked to provide Security, Care and Hope for children ages infant through 17 who are victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment since 1969 through its Mission of “Lifting Children From Crisis to Hope” and provides over 5,000 nights of care for children annually through its 24-hour Emergency Shelter Facility;

Whereas, Child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community and children are our most valuable asset and are vital to the future success, prosperity and quality of life of Farmington and the State of New Mexico;

Whereas, 1,192 accepted reports of child abuse in San Juan County were submitted to the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families in 2016 and further it is the duty of all citizens to report suspected child abuse by using the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Child Abuse Hotline, 1-855-333-SAFE;

Whereas, providing care, support and interventions vital to the health and well-being of children and families is crucial to helping prevent child abuse and neglect;

Whereas, Childhaven provides care, services and advocacy through 24-hour Emergency Shelter, Nurturing Parenting Classes, Family Support Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Forensic Safehouse Interviews, Foster Care and Therapy;

Whereas, Childhaven Programs such as Family Support Services and Nurturing Parenting Classes, 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, ensure all children grow to their full potential;

Whereas, 67 San Juan CASA Volunteers advocated for 86% of the 102 child abuse and neglect cases heard by the Children’s Court Judge;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies such as Childhaven, Children Youth and Families Department, the New Mexico Children’s Alliance, Sexual Assault Services, organizations such as the San Juan United Way, health care providers such as Pinon Family Practice and Presbyterian Medical Services, Desert View Counseling, schools, faith communities, the City of Farmington, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

Therefore, I do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.