STATE OF MICHIGAN

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN
I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim
April, 2015

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Last year, 30,953 children were abused or neglected in Michigan. That's 85 every day; and,

WHEREAS, Nationally, it is estimated that more than 1,520 children die each year from child abuse and neglect; and,

WHEREAS, Unemployment, poverty, parental drug and alcohol abuse; stress, social isolation and violent communities are identified risk factors for child maltreatment; and,

WHEREAS, Both statewide and nationally, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders such as depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, severe obesity and juvenile delinquency; and,

WHEREAS, Child abuse costs the nation an estimated annual direct cost of $124 billion, approximately $1,400 each year for the average American family; and,

WHEREAS, Prevention strengthens families and is cost effective. Research shows that spending for child abuse prevention programs saves dollars that would be spent for crisis-oriented programming such as; protective services, foster care, special education, and counseling. This does not take into account juvenile delinquency or adult incarceration; and,

WHEREAS, Promoting, family functioning/resiliency, social support systems, concrete supports, nurturing and attachment, and knowledge of parenting/child development all are known protective factors which prevent child maltreatment and help to strengthen families; and,

WHEREAS, Child abuse prevention is an acknowledged community responsibility, on behalf of Michigan's children, this month and each thereafter we shall commit to "The Power of One." This statewide initiative under the leadership of the Children's Trust Fund asserts that the power of one person, one community, one dollar, one action, etc., during April will help to protect children from abuse and neglect throughout Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Michigan.

Rick Snyder
Governor

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR