

State of Texas
County of Williamson

Know all men by these presents:

WHEREAS, in FFY 2014, the U.S Department of Health and Human Services reported that in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, an estimated 646,261 children were victims of child abuse or neglect and an estimated 1,580 children died as a result of abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, in Williamson County, there were 731 confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections & partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community & faith-based organizations, businesses & law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse & contribute to promote the social & emotional well-being of children & families in a safe, stable & nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and

WHEREAS, all adults 18 & over are considered mandated reporters in the State of Texas and are charged with officially reporting any and all suspected cases of abuse to the 1-800-252-5400 Abuse Hotline so that local professionals can properly investigate and intervene in a timely manner to keep children safe from abuse in Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources; and

WHEREAS, in Williamson County, the Child Welfare Board, the Children's Advocacy Center, Emergency Medical Services, the Sheriff's Department, Child Protective Services, CASA Workers and Volunteers, the County Attorney's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Judges and others, all work together and play a critical role in the prevention and healing of abused and neglected children in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Williamson County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim April, 2016 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH

in Williamson County, and urges all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

AND FURTHERMORE, WHEREAS, the Williamson County Child Welfare Board, a non-profit organization which was formed in 1980, designed to help support and provide for the county's foster children and also approves county expenditure requests from the Department of Family and Protective Services in its mission to keep children safe; and

WHEREAS, Dianne Howell has served on the board since 1992, is acting president since 1997 and has exemplified an unwavering commitment to the betterment of foster children in our community; and


WHEREAS, the WCCWB will hold their annual fundraiser on April 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's KC Hall, 2201 E. Fourth St. (Hwy. 79), Taylor Texas.

NOW THEREFORE, the Williamson County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize the


**WILLIAMSON COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD
&
DIANNE HOWELL**

for their outstanding, dedicated service and encourages all citizens to support the Williamson County Child Welfare Board in its endeavors and congratulate Dianne for a job well done.

Signed on this 5th day of April, 2016


Dan A. Gattis, County Judge

Attest:


Nancy E. Ristler, County Clerk

