

## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA **CALIFORNIA**

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2013 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the well-being of all children is a priority in Santa Barbara County, and according to American Community Survey statistics, there are currently over 96,793 children and youth under age 18 living in the county, representing nearly 23% of the population; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 over 4412 referrals of suspected child abuse and neglect were made to the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Hotline and over 3126 of these reports were investigated; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these cases were due to child neglect and caregiver incapacity, often associated with underlying risk factors such as substance abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence and parental stress; and

WHEREAS, the Child Abuse Prevention Council understands that effective child abuse prevention is a shared responsibility that requires commitment across all sectors of the community and strategic coordination of services that promote strong bonds between family members, build parental resilience, increase knowledge of parenting and child development, provide opportunities for social connection and ensure access to support for basic needs; and

WHEREAS, all professionals working with children and all concerned citizens of Santa Barbara County can support the effective prevention of child abuse and neglect by strengthening families, protecting children and building safe and healthy communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara, State of California, recognize April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the County of Santa Barbara. Passed and adopted this 16th day of April 2013.

2nd District

4th District

5th District

visor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 1st District ATTEST: