

Whereas, children are our future and deserve to grow up nurtured and free of the maltreatment of abuse and neglect,

Whereas, preventing child maltreatment is a community problem that depends upon collaboration among agencies and individuals within neighborhoods and throughout the community;

Whereas, child maltreatment not only directly harms children, but also increases the likelihood of long-term physical and mental health problems, known as Adverse Childhood Experiences, which come at great economic and social costs;

Whereas, child maltreatment occurs in families of all cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds;

Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community;

Whereas, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support needed to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

Whereas, the current pandemic presents itself as a traumatic event—that challenges a child’s and family’s ability to cope;

Whereas, there is a growing body of knowledge that Primary Prevention Programs can stem the tide of child abuse;

Whereas, the Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council is focusing on supporting Primary Prevention Programs in Humboldt County;

NOW THEREFORE, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, recognizing the importance of working together to prevent child abuse and promote the well-being of children and families, does hereby proclaim April 2021 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, and calls upon all residents to increase participation in these efforts to support families, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.