

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alachua County has twice the State rate of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect cause significant trauma to the abused child and society, inflicting upon children serious illness and injury resulting in physical, intellectual, and emotional impairment or death; and

WHEREAS, abused or neglected children are at much greater risk of becoming abusive and neglectful parents; and

WHEREAS, prevention services can reduce the cost society must bear in dealing with the results of child abuse and neglect and can help children and families avoid the overburdened and expensive social welfare and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, children deserve the opportunity to grow and thrive in healthful environments, free from threats of violence and harm, and during the month of April, public and private-sector agencies, child care professionals, child advocates, and residents will be increasing the public's awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April, 2010 as

### *Child Abuse Prevention Month*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join with our community abuse protection and prevention agencies, professionals, and advocates to stop child abuse.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, A.D., 2010.



*Pegeen Hanrahan*  
Pegeen Hanrahan  
Mayor