

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong developmental difference, associated with significant alteration of an individual's ability to learn in the same way as average students, which may include differences in social behaviors and in verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal communication and persons with autism encounter challenges in environments designed for neurologically typical people; and

WHEREAS, autism affects people regardless of sex, race, religion, socio-economic status or geography; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of autism in the United States is now at 1 in 68 and is four times more likely to affect boys according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests autism is the result of neurological anomalies affecting the functioning of the brain and the body, but few members of the general public, schools and medical community fully understand this complex syndrome; and

WHEREAS, persons with autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential through accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education; and

WHEREAS, interventions, as well as community acceptance and accommodations, are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex set of differences that require increased personal research to one day better understand it; and

WHEREAS, a greater recognition and understanding of autism can ensure that individuals and families affected by autism who live living in the City of Gainesville and all other Americans with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we as a society support families and individuals as they respond to challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and likewise support initiatives related to autism research, training, information and availability of services such as the University of Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UF CARD); and

WHEREAS, UF CARD is founded on the strong belief that:

- All individuals, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, have the right to live as full participants in society.
- People with disabilities are members of families. All families have strengths and capacities and have the right to be treated with sensitivity and respect, and as integral members of a person's system of support.
- People with autism and related disabilities have the right to be regarded as individuals who need services and supports that are based on their unique characteristics.
- CARD works with families, caregivers and professionals to optimize the potential of people with autism and related disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April, 2015 as

Autism Awareness Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing the services provided by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 11th day of February, A.D., 2015.



Edward B. Braddy
Edward B. Braddy
Mayor