

City of Gainesville, Florida #051135

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

04/10/06

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 1617 children in Alachua County were identified as having been abused or neglected in reports closed during fiscal year 2004-2005; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect causes 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 a much greater risk of becoming abusive and neglectful parents; and

WHEREAS, prevention services can reduce the cost to society resulting from 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

WHEREAS, 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 2006 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in supporting programs and efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 10th day of March, A.D., 2006.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor