



# Official Proclamation

## City of Hastings, Michigan



### Child Abuse Prevention Month

- Whereas:** Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem, ranking as one of the greatest risks to the health and well-being of Barry County children; and
- Whereas:** Child abuse and neglect may be the result of various social problems such as inadequate parenting skills, family violence, poverty, family dysfunction, mental health problems, homelessness and crime; and
- Whereas:** In Barry County in 2016, 148 children between the ages of 0-17 were confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect by Children's Protective Services; and
- Whereas:** The Family Support Center of Barry County has been designated by Michigan's Children's Trust Fund to lead alongside local community based programs to assist in expediting efforts to prevent child abuse now and in future generations through joint interagency prevention efforts; and
- Whereas:** The most precious and valuable asset of our county is our children, and we must dedicate ourselves, our energy and our resources to the nurturing and protection of these most vulnerable individuals-protecting children and strengthening Barry County families is a shared community responsibility; and
- Whereas:** Community action is needed to help families break the cycle of abuse with small or simple gestures-just by reaching out and showing you care about children in your family and neighborhood demonstrates that we value our children;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, David J. Tossava, Mayor, on behalf of the City of Hastings and the Hastings City Council, do hereby declare April 2018 as

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and I urge all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect significantly in years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Hastings, Michigan, to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.

  
David J. Tossava, Mayor