



City of Winston-Salem

Proclamation

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- WHEREAS:** In 2025, Child Protective Services agencies in Forsyth County investigated 3,338 cases of child abuse and neglect, with 38% of victims under the age of five; and
- WHEREAS:** Every child in Winston-Salem represents promise, potential, and the future of our community; and the safety and well-being of children are critical to the strength and prosperity of families, neighborhoods, and our entire region; and
- WHEREAS:** Child abuse and neglect are preventable; and creating safe, stable, and nurturing environments for children requires awareness, education, and support for parents and caregivers throughout our county; and
- WHEREAS:** Child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and
- WHEREAS:** Protective factors such as parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, strong social connections, and access to support services reduce the risk of abuse and strengthens families; and
- WHEREAS:** Effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare, education, health care, community, faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies; and
- WHEREAS:** We acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and collectively advocate for the social, emotional, and well-being needs of children and families to thrive in safe, stable, and nurturing environments; and
- WHEREAS:** Symbolic initiatives such as Pinwheel Gardens serve as visible reminders of our shared responsibility to nurture, protect, and support the children of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, and encourage public engagement in prevention efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. ALLEN JOINES, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Given under my hand and seal this 6th day of April, 2026.

J. ALLEN JOINES

Mayor