



City of Winston-Salem

Proclamation

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- WHEREAS:** In the year 2024, 5,096 cases of child abuse and neglect were investigated by child protective services agencies in Forsyth County; and
- WHEREAS:** Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and
- WHEREAS:** Our children are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of the world and Forsyth 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 are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; 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:** Communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. ALLEN JOINES, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

and call upon all citizens to participate in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Given under my hand and seal this 21st day of April, 2025.

J. ALLEN JOINES

Mayor