

# PROCLAMATION

## Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, families, caregivers, charities and research groups across the United States, as well as our national government, are observing the month of September as Childhood Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children under 18 years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 13,000 children under the age of 18 will be diagnosed with cancer this year, with about one in five of those children dying within the first five years, including children in our own community; and

**WHEREAS**, while progress against some childhood cancers has been made, cure rates for many forms of childhood cancer remain less than 50%, with many survivors suffering long-term side effects from the cancer and/or treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, childhood cancers cross all racial, ethnic, geographic and social backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, in the month of September we honor the children who have, or still are, battling cancer and/or its after effects, their families and caregivers, the researchers and health care professionals, concerned citizen advocates and private philanthropies, who collaborate to provide hope and assistance to the children and their families affected by childhood cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, do hereby proclaim the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Muscatine and urge all citizens to memorialize the young lives that have been taken too soon and to honor those fighting and those who have survived childhood cancer.

Signed and sealed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015.

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DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor