



Muscatine County



Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

### April 2017

Whereas in 2015, the Iowa Department of Human Services conducted a total of 311 child abuse assessments in Muscatine County, with a total of 103 of those assessments being either confirmed or founded;

Whereas, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and requires action from everyone in our community to prevent it;

Whereas, our children are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of the Muscatine Community;

Whereas child abuse and neglect directly harms children and increases the likelihood of long-term physical and mental health problems, alcohol and substance abuse, continued family violence and criminal behavior;

Whereas child abuse and neglect occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations and don't know how to cope;

Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and caring community;

Whereas every child can have a great childhood by making sure each family has the support and education they need in raising their children in safe, nurturing environments;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

Whereas, community members must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

Therefore, I do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens to increase their participation in building caring connections with families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

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Diana L. Broderson, Mayor