

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 24-05

COUNTY OF DORCHESTER

**PROCLAIMING APRIL 2024 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
THROUGHOUT DORCHESTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, South Carolina's future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the more than 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state and 39,317 in Dorchester County; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, child-serving organizations, schools, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and civic leaders to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational well-being of all children; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging societal consequences, as data shows the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers who have a support system of family and friends, know where to find public resources, and understand how to remain resilient in challenging times are best equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and

WHEREAS, statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2022-2023, there were 8,304 substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations with 14,711 children in South Carolina, and 276 investigations with 485 children in Dorchester County.

NOW, THEREFORE, Dorchester County Council hereby proclaims April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month throughout Dorchester County and encourages all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life of every child.

ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2024.



BY: S. Todd Friddle
S. Todd Friddle, Chairman
Dorchester County Council

ATTEST: Tracey L. Langley
Tracey L. Langley
Clerk to Council