

Proclamation



WHEREAS; Florida is committed to improving the lives of all Floridians and securing a better future for the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS; children who have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are at a higher risk of short and long-term physical, psychological, and behavioral challenges that can impact the individual child and the greater community; and

WHEREAS; parents and caregivers who have resources and support are better equipped to give their children safe and nurturing experiences; and

WHEREAS; children have better mental health and physical health and academic success when they are raised in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS; the Florida Department of Children and Families Secretary has a vision for holistic services by integrating systems and services; and

WHEREAS; the State of Florida has established Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity, a personalized approach to helping families overcome barriers to self-sufficiency through community collaboration; and

WHEREAS; Floridians can call 850-300-HOPE to speak with a Care Navigator for support to develop a plan to achieve economic self-sufficiency, referrals to local partners, and help identifying goals and barriers in their lives; and

WHEREAS; during April, Prevent Child Abuse Florida, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Heartland for Children, and The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, implements Pinwheels for Prevention, a statewide coordinated campaign to raise awareness of child abuse prevention efforts by teaching about healthy child development and positive parenting practices, and establishing Circle of Parents peer support groups; and

WHEREAS; Child Abuse Prevention Month reminds Floridians of all ages that they can help children increase positive childhood experiences, which lead to happier, healthier childhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Omar Arroyo, Mayor of Haines City, Florida, extend my support to all observing April 2025 as *Child Abuse Prevention Month in Florida*.

Omar Arroyo, Mayor