April 2026
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month
Proclamation

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Polk County; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves to be loved, cared for, secure, and safe and it is the responsibility of our communities to promote every child's right to a safe, happy and healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, 304 reports were made to Polk County Child Protective Services; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect not only cause immediate harm to children, but can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse and can increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems and risky behavior; and

WHEREAS preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of Polk County and finding solutions depends on involvement among all people; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, we must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among child welfare, citizens, agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together and that all citizens should become involved to provide safe, nurturing environments for children in all areas of their lives – at home, in school, and in the community – offering them the opportunity to grow up to be caring, contributing members of the community;

WHEREAS, **PREVENTION** remains the best defense for our children and families;

NOW, THERFORE, I, Myron Yoder, Board of Commissioner Chair, do hereby proclaim **APRIL 2026 as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month** in Polk County, North Carolina and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families, thereby preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening the community in which we live.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

_____
Myron Yoder
Chairman

_____
Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to the Board