PROCLAMATION

02-2026

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, we recognize that children are vital to our county, state and nation's future success, prosperity and quality of life, as well as, being our most vulnerable assets;

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

WHEREAS, Caldwell County, received 2060 reports of child abuse and neglect and investigated reports involving 1638 children in 2025;

WHEREAS, children who experience abuse and neglect have higher rates of academic failure, chronic long-term health issues and increased propensity to violence, if gone untreated;

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human services agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County does herby proclaim April 2026 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support children and families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

Adopted this the 27th day of April 2026.

_____	_____
Randy T. Church, Chairman	**Donnie Potter**
_____	_____
Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman	**Patrick Starnes**
_____	_____
Jeff Branch	**Attest: Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board**