CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, children are our state's most vulnerable members as well as our state's most valuable resources, helping to shape the future of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, positive childhood experiences (PCES) - like loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships - can help mitigate trauma and the negative impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) to promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime and impact future generations of their family; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious problem affecting every community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, children who live in families with access to concrete economic and social support are less likely to experience abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, nurturing positive childhoods and preventing child maltreatment is possible because of the partnerships created between families, prevention advocates, child welfare professionals, education, health, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, local, state, and national governments; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that to solve the public health issue of abuse and neglect we must work together to change hearts and mindsets through storytelling and sharing, center the needs of families, break down bias and barriers, and inspire action from expected and unexpected partners; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to advancing equitable, responsive, and effective systems that ensure all children and families are healthy and thriving; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to prioritize kids and invest in more prevention initiatives like home visiting and family-strengthening policies, economic support, and community-based child abuse prevention programs at the national, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 theme for Child Abuse Prevention is "Positive Childhoods Start with Us",

NOW, THEREFORE, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim **April 2026** as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** in Buncombe County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention that does not currently exist in this country.

This 21st day of April, 2026.

Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners