

County of Santa Rosa

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong developmental disability, resulting in a range of significant impairments to an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, Autism is the third most common developmental disability, affecting 1.5 million individuals nationwide and over 1400 individuals in Santa Rosa County.

WHEREAS, Autism is the result of a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain, but few members of the general public understand the impact of this complex disability; and

WHEREAS, although a cure for Autism has not been found, persons with Autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential. Accurate, early diagnosis, and the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the highest quality of life for the individual; and

WHEREAS, Support groups, such as Autism Pensacola, have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to promote community inclusion, support and appropriate education of all persons with Autism; and

WHEREAS, These groups remain committed to their cause and to educating families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a complex disability that requires increased research to one day find a cure and maximize potential; and greater recognition and understanding to ensure that individuals with Autism living in Santa Rosa County and all other Americans with Autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2011 as **NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in Santa Rosa County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners this 24th day of March, 2011.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: 
Lane Lynchard, Chairman