

County of Santa Rosa

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Autism is a severely incapacitating, lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of 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 1,500,000 individuals nationwide, and about 1,000 individuals in this county; and

WHEREAS, Autism is the result of a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain, but few members of the general public understand this complex syndrome; 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 future growth and development of the individual; and,

WHEREAS, Support groups, such as the Autism Society of the Panhandle Chapter of the Autism Society of America, have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, 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 prevention; 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 2009 as **NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in Santa Rosa County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 absent of the Board of County Commissioners this 9th day of April, 2009.



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

BY: Don Salter
Don Salter, Chairman