

County of Santa Rosa

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every child deserves a safe, permanent, nurturing home; and

WHEREAS, the Guardian ad Litem Program in the State of Florida, First Judicial Circuit, has established a distinguished record of public service through its advocacy for children who are victims of abuse or neglect in the unfamiliar and often frightening court and child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention depends on the increased awareness and involvement of all citizens throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, statistics of children who are abused and neglected escalate each year, with more than 900 children in Florida's First Judicial Circuit having been represented by volunteers from a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, an observance that reflects the purpose of the Guardian ad Litem program in serving as officers of the court, helping to improve the quality of information presented to the court, and acting as the court's eyes and ears in protecting and defending children from harm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, does hereby call all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations and businesses in the County to observe this month, by demonstrating their support for the Guardian ad Litem program and its volunteers who devotedly and unselfishly work to keep children safe, thereby enhancing the lives of children and strengthening the community in which we live.



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

BY: _____
Robert "Bob" Cole, Chairman