

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 03-045

Proclaiming April 2003 Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Child abuse is a national tragedy. An average of 2,400 children are victims of child abuse every day. An average of three children - of all races, genders and socioeconomic backgrounds - die from maltreatment every day.
- b. In Oregon, there were 10,186 victims of child abuse in 2000. In Multnomah County, there were 1,644 founded child abuse reports; 49% of them were less than six years old. Children of all ages experience abuse, but the youngest children are most vulnerable. The increasing number of young victims, as well as the intensity of family problems, results in more difficult cases that take longer to resolve.
- c. Abuse and neglect are associated with many short and long term consequences, including brain damage, developmental delays, learning disorders, problems forming relationships, aggressive behavior, and depression.
- d. Survivors of child abuse and neglect are at greater risk for problems later in life - including low academic achievement, drug use, teen pregnancy, and criminal behavior. These issues affect not just the child and family but society as a whole.
- e. Every child deserves love, protection, and nurturing. Safe and healthy childhoods help produce confident and successful adults.
- f. Every April, communities across the country join to raise public awareness about child abuse, to provide information about how to prevent it, and to assist families in need of support, recovery, and encouragement. During Child Abuse Prevention Month, and throughout the year, we pronounce our ongoing commitment to find ways to cherish our children, and strengthen our families.
- g. We call upon our community to observe this month by supporting the hard work of those who ensure our children's safety, and by playing an active role in creating a safer, healthier environment for our children's growth.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The Month of April 2003 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** in Multnomah County, Oregon.
We urge all County residents to join us in this observance.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of April, 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Diane M. Linn, Chair

