

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 08-033

Proclaiming April 2008 Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Our future doctors, teachers, business owners and community leaders are all children currently learning and growing in our communities. Each of us has a responsibility to ensure they have what they need to grow up safe and healthy.
- b. All children deserve nurturing home environments, safe places to play, good medical care and stimulating schools. Children who experience secure, loving relationships and stimulating environments become confident, caring adults.
- c. The primary responsibility for children's health and well-being rests with parents, but parents need to be supported. All families benefit from the help of strong, supportive neighborhoods and communities. We all play a role in helping our children thrive.
- d. In Multnomah County, there were 2,281 children who were victims of child abuse and neglect in 2006. For six of the past ten years, the rate of child maltreatment has been higher in Multnomah County than the state average.
- e. Statewide, about half of victims of reported abuse and neglect are under age six.
- f. Child abuse is an issue with serious long-term consequences for individuals, families and communities. Children who are abused suffer effects that often last a lifetime. The human cost is heartbreaking. The monetary cost of intervention in child abuse and neglect cases – conservatively estimated at \$258 million a day in the United States – places an enormous weight on our child protective services, educational, juvenile and mental health systems.
- g. To reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect we must do all we can to prevent abuse before it happens. The majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are *entirely preventable* in an engaged and supportive community.
- h. The Safe Child Task Force is to be commended for its advocacy on behalf of abused and neglected children in Multnomah County and should continue to encourage child and family safety as a funding and policy priority; promote the

creation of a universal parent education system; and help in creating a supportive community based on healthy attitudes in order to prevent child abuse.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

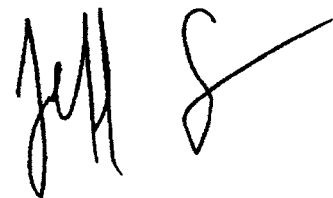
The month of April 2008 Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. In so doing, we call upon our community, this month and throughout the year, to focus on prevention efforts that create healthier environments for children and foster confident, positive parenting.

ADOPTED this 27th day of March, 2008.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**


Ted Wheeler, County Chair


Maria Rojo de Steffey,
Commissioner District 1

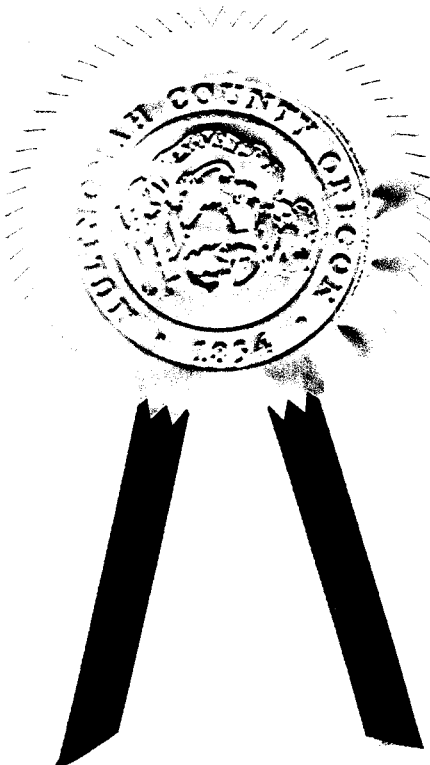


Jeff Cogen,
Commissioner District 2


Lisa Naito,
Commissioner District 3



Lonnie Roberts,
Commissioner District 4



SUBMITTED BY:
Commissioner Lisa Naito