

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**PROCLAMATION NO. 09-033**

Proclaiming April 2009 Child Abuse Prevention "Blue Ribbon" 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 and contributing adults.
- c) The primary responsibility for children's health and wellbeing rests with parents, but parents need to be supported. All families benefit from strong, supportive neighborhoods and communities, where there are opportunities to ask for help. We each play a role in helping all children thrive.
- d) In Multnomah County, there were 2,271 children who were victims of child abuse/neglect in 2007. For seven of the past ten years, the rate of child maltreatment has been higher in Multnomah County than the state average. Statewide, about half of victims of reported abuse/neglect are under age 6.
- e) 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 burden on our child protective services, educational, juvenile and mental health systems.
- f) 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.
- g) Multnomah County Departments and staff are to be commended for their hard work to reduce child abuse and neglect in our community by providing important services and advocacy on behalf of children and their families. Multnomah County should continue to view child and family safety as a funding and policy

priority, and help in creating a supportive community in order to prevent child abuse.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

The month of April 2009 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 which create healthier environments for children and foster confident, positive parenting.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of April, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Ted Wheeler, County Chair



Deborah Kafoury,  
Commissioner District 1



Jeff Cogen,  
Commissioner District 2



Judy Shiprack,  
Commissioner District 3



Diane McKeel,  
Commissioner District 4

SUBMITTED BY:  
Commissioner Deborah Kafoury, District 1