



# Proclamation



**WHEREAS**, South Carolina's future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the more than 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state, including 13,950 in Darlington County; and,

**WHEREAS**, preventing childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, must be a priority that requires everyone to support the physical, emotional, social and educational well-being of all children; and,

**WHEREAS**, childhood abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging societal consequences, as data show the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues into adulthood; and,

**WHEREAS**, parents and caregivers who have a support system of family and friends, know where to find public resources, and understand how to remain resilient in challenging times are best equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and,

**WHEREAS**, statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, or economic status; and,

**WHEREAS**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that build strong children and families; and,

**WHEREAS**, in fiscal year 2022-2023, there were 8,304 substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations involving 14,711 children in South Carolina and 197 investigations involving 416 children in Darlington County in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Casey Hancock, Mayor of the City of Hartsville, South Carolina, hereby proclaim April 2024 as

## **“CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH”**

and encourage all citizens to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for every child.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the seal of the City of Hartsville.

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Casey Hancock, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea D. Crenshaw, CMC, City Clerk