

Ashley Honeycutt

From: Finance Director <tonyar@ashechildren.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Ashley Honeycutt
Cc: ECE Consultant; Advocate; Executive Director
Subject: presentations/proclamations for April
Attachments: April Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month declaration 2021.docx; Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2021 proclamation.docx; WOYC Proclamation.docx

Good afternoon. There will be 3 staff members from Partnership of Ashe who will be requesting a proclamation from the Commissioners at the meeting on April 5th. April is a busy month for our agency as it is an awareness month for several things.

Week of the Young Child proclamation – Marilyn Agnew ececonsultant@ashechildren.org
Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation – Ann Clawson advocate@ashechildren.org
Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month proclamation– Tonya Roark tonyar@ashechildren.org

I have attached the information sheet that includes the proclamation. The brief paragraph at the top will be what our staff would present. We can answer questions as well. We would like one of the Commissioners to read the proclamation.

We will look for an email giving us guidance on how the meeting will be structured.

Thank you,
Tonya Roark

Tonya Roark
Programs & Finance Director
Partnership of Ashe
113 Partnership Drive, PO Box 156
Jefferson, NC 28640
(336) 982-4588 ext. 223
(336) 982-8860 fax
tonyar@ashechildren.org
www.ashechildren.org



The purpose of the Week of the Young Child® is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. This celebration is annually in the month of April.

Whereas, the Partnership of Ashe, in conjunction with the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (NCAEYC) and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), are celebrating the 50th Week of the Young Child™, April 10-16, 2021; and

Whereas, the first five years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning; and

Whereas, participation in high-quality early childhood education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more economically secure, and prepares children to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and live healthier lives; and

Whereas; high-quality early childhood education depends on high-quality early childhood educators who ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they need for a strong foundation; and

Whereas, young children need skilled, educated, competent, consistent, and compensated early childhood educators, along with developmentally appropriate, accessible, and available early care and education settings; and

Whereas, working families need sufficient high-quality childcare spaces beginning at birth to be available in the community; and

Whereas, Early Childhood Educators need opportunities to acquire critical skills, knowledge, and competencies through pathways to credentials and higher education degrees, without incurring college debt; and

Whereas, Ashe County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2021 as the Week of the Young Child™ in Ashe County and encourage all citizens to work to support and invest in early childhood along with continuing and advancing the early childhood education profession in Ashe County as we Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the WOYC!

Dated this 5th of April, 2021

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The mission of this month is to raise awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it. The Partnership of Ashe supports sexual assault awareness and prevention through their domestic violence and sexual assault program, A Safe Home for Everyone. This program is the sole provider of services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our community. We seek to provide support and assistance to individuals who have experienced domestic or sexual violence and promote healing and encourage self-sustainability.

WHEREAS, A Safe Home for Everyone, A program of The Partnership of Ashe, served 32 survivors of sexual assault in the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 38 men have experienced sexual assault, in some form, in their life; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month draws attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has implications for every community member; and

WHEREAS, The stigma surrounding reporting sexual assault or violence in communities results in roughly 63% of assaults not being reported; and

WHEREAS, As a community, we must work together to educate others on helping prevent sexual assault, better support survivors, and destigmatize the reporting of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, We encourage every person to have conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, and how to connect survivors to services for ongoing support. Anyone can be a leader in preventing and ending sexual violence. We all have an obligation to uphold the basic principle that every individual should be free from violence and fear;

NOW, THEREFORE, I _____, County Commissioner do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Ashe County, and to encourage our community to work together to bring awareness to sexual violence and decrease negativity surrounding the reporting of sexual violence in our community.

Dated this 5th day of April, 2021

April is **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, a time for communities to come together to build caring connections, supportive environments, and positive experiences for all **children**. Partnership of Ashe supports child abuse prevention through their family support program, Family Foundations. Through this program we strive to provide support to parents with children that promotes a positive, loving environment where children can grow and learn so they can be successful in school and in life.

Proclamation:

WHEREAS, There were 225 cases of abuse and neglect investigations in Ashe County during 2020 with a monthly average of 46 children in foster care In March 2021 there are 69 children in Foster Care;and

WHEREAS, Child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on involvement among all people; and

WHEREAS, Communities must make every effort to promote programs that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, everyone in the community should become more aware of child abuse prevention and consider helping parents raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I _____, County Commissioner do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month in Ashe County, and urge all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect significantly in years to come.

Dated this 5th day of April, 2021