



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, children have a right to be safe, be free from abuse and neglect, and be provided an opportunity to thrive, learn, and grow; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect requires ongoing commitment from adults, and investment by our greater community to ensure children and families receive the assistance and support they need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, more than 680,000 children are identified every year in America as victims of abuse and neglect, and nearly five children die every day in America from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, children who experience abuse are at increased risk of poor academic performance, substance abuse, long-term health problems, intimate partner violence, sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy, juvenile and adult criminality, depression, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's children deserve our full attention and unwavering dedication to their safety and health; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Children's Advocacy Center (ChicagoCAC) is a vital institution within the city whose mission is to unite public, private, and community agencies to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of abused children; and

WHEREAS, ChicagoCAC coordinates a multidisciplinary response to more than 2,200 reports of child abuse – severely physical and sexual – each year; and

WHEREAS, ChicagoCAC ensures that children and families receive the support and trauma resources they need to heal and move forward, including referrals for mental health care and other crucial services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is proud to support the expansion of ChicagoCAC's existing facility at 1240 South Damen Avenue which will broaden the center's ability to serve children and families in need while facilitating enhanced collaboration among co-located partners that share the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center's special groundbreaking will take place April 1, 2014 safeguarding the continued support of some of our most vulnerable and courageous residents:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO do hereby proclaim April 2014 to be CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN CHICAGO, and encourage all Chicagoans to take part in protecting children from abuse, and join those who work every day to ensure children who have suffered abuse receive the help they need to begin healing.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2014.

Mayor