



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, The Canopy South MS Advocacy Center has conducted over 725 forensic interviews, and provided 2,141 VOCA services to children who are sexually and/or physically abused or child witnesses to violent crimes in 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAY WILLIS, MAYOR, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as **Child Abuse Awareness Month** and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Pascagoula to be affixed hereto.

Jay Willis
Mayor