



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, City of Pascagoula prides itself on giving back to the community, contributing to the quality of life among our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Canopy Children's Solutions helps transform the lives of children and adolescents struggling with mental and behavioral health issues every day; and

WHEREAS, Through the symbol of a pinwheel, which represents the notion of playfulness, joy, and childhood and displays positive cycles of love and support the organization hopes to create, Prevent Child Abuse America and Canopy Children's Solutions recognizes this awareness through an effort known as Pinwheels for prevention;

WHEREAS, More than 35,534 reports of maltreatment of children are reported each year with some form of abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, Canopy Children's Solutions South Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center saw 1,222 victims of maltreatment and provided 3,036 VOCA services, including forensic interviews, case coordination, mental health rehabilitation, family advocacy, hotline crises interventions, and court preparations, in 2023 alone; and

WHEREAS, Through a national effort, City of Pascagoula community members are encouraged to join together to raise awareness for those children that have fallen victim to abuse and neglect throughout the month of April; and

WHEREAS, This effort will give abused and neglected children in our community, and around the county, a chance for a safe and positive future.

NOW THEREFORE, I Jay Willis, Mayor the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In this city, and in doing so, urge all citizens to join in a national effort to raise awareness and help prevent child abuse and neglect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto affixed the seal of the City of Pascagoula on this, the _____ day of _____ 2023.

Jay Willis
Mayor