



P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Prevention is possible. With strong policies and investments, families and children can thrive, fostering prevention, stability and long-term well-being; and

WHEREAS, supporting families early reduces the need for a crisis response, improves lifelong outcomes, strengthens communities, and saves public dollars and costly downstream interventions across multiple systems; and

WHEREAS, every family and child is filled with tremendous promise, and we all have a collective responsibility to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), foster the potential of every child, and promote Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs); and

WHEREAS, Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)—such as loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships—play a vital role in helping children thrive by mitigating trauma and the negative impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); and

WHEREAS, families who receive the support they need before a crisis occurs are better equipped to provide safe, healthy, and nurturing environments, leading to children who are safer, healthier, and more hopeful about their futures; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime and impact future generations; and

WHEREAS, primary prevention of child abuse and neglect can reduce the lifetime economic burden associated with child maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, strengthening families through access to concrete economic, social, and community-based supports reduces the likelihood of abuse and neglect and ensures children have the foundation for lifelong well-being; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about what families need before they are in crisis and contribute to promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, investments in prevention initiatives—such as home visiting programs, family-strengthening policies, economic supports, and community-based child abuse prevention efforts—reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect and ensure children have the foundation for lifelong well-being; and

WHEREAS, we can prevent child abuse and neglect before it happens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tad Stover, Mayor of Arkansas City, do hereby proclaim **April 2026** as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Arkansas City. Together, we can create a state where every child can grow up happy, healthy, and safe with hope for their future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

TAD STOVER, MAYOR

April 7, 2026