



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, South Carolina's future prosperity is dependent on nurturing the healthy development of the 1.1 million children currently residing in the diverse communities across our state; and all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2025, there were 12,269 documented children with substantiated maltreatment in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2025, Hopeful Horizons conducted 385 Forensic Interviews for cases of alleged child abuse and neglect while Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA), provided 13,133 days of care to 90 foster children; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is a public health issue with serious societal consequences, as data shows the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral problems into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, youth-serving organizations, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and everyone that makes up our community to support the physical, emotional, and educational development of all children and their families; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention exists in communities that provide parents with social support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children, help to ensure that all children can grow to their full potential; and

Now, therefore, I, Mayor Larry Toomer, along with Bluffton Town Council, Hopeful Horizons and Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) do hereby proclaim April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, while urging all citizens to dedicate themselves to protect quality of life for every child.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Bluffton to be affixed this 7 day of April 2026.

Larry C. Toomer, Mayor

