



## Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** sexual harassment, abuse, and assault are widespread problems. In the United States alone, nearly one in five women and one in 33 men have been raped at some time in their lives, and one in four girls and one in 6 boys is sexually abused by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. In fact, an American is sexually assaulted every 68 seconds; and
- WHEREAS:** sexual assault affects every adult, teen, and child in Denton County either as a victim/survivor of sexual assault or as a family member, significant other, friend, neighbor, or co-worker; and
- WHEREAS:** few survivors of sexual violence seek help immediately after victimization due to shame or fear of not being believed. In order to end sexual assault, we must alleviate these fears. We must begin by believing; and
- WHEREAS:** Denton County Friends of the Family staff and volunteers provide comprehensive and compassionate services to those impacted by sexual assault, including a Survivor Advocate Team responding 24/7 to local hospitals and law enforcement agencies to support victims of sexual assault; and
- WHEREAS:** April 2023 marks the twenty-first anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month during which Denton County Friends of the Family will be intensifying efforts to promote public understanding of sexual assault, publicizing their services, emphasizing the need for increased community support for their agency, and to increase awareness of needs of survivors.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Jaclyn Carrington, Mayor of the Town of Bartonville, Texas, do hereby proclaim, April 2023, as,

### ***“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”***

in the Town of Bartonville, and encourage all citizens to learn more about the effects of sexual assault and how to support survivors.

**PROCLAIMED AND SIGNED** on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

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**Jaclyn Carrington, MAYOR**