

Proclamation

Office of the City Commission



WHEREAS, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and April 16-22, 2023, is National Volunteer Week; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office provides representation for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in dependency court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office's current model of representation is nationally recognized as best practice because it uses a multi-disciplinary team model that includes a Guardian ad Litem Attorney, a child welfare professional, and hopefully a trained volunteer or pro bono attorney; and

WHEREAS, for more than 40 years, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office has provided the most vulnerable children in Florida with an adult from their community who is a consistent, positive presence in the child's life; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office provides high-quality community advocacy and legal representation to protect each child's rights and legal interests; and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office has provided independent legal advocacy for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children located throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office had more than 11,000 volunteers; and advocated for more than 36,000 abused and neglected children in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office in the 17th Judicial Circuit, Broward County, oversees a volunteer base of over 490 people; and advocates for more than 1,500 abused, abandoned, and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office pro bono attorneys sacrifice time worth over 3.6 million dollars in in-kind donations to the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office volunteers sacrifice time and mileage worth millions of dollars annually to the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office volunteers have provided an invaluable service to dependency court judges; and

WHEREAS, studies show that children with a Guardian ad Litem Volunteer are more likely to be adopted, half as likely to re-enter foster care, less likely to spend time in long-term foster care, more likely to have a permanency plan, and more likely to perform well in school; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Ross, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as

"Child Abuse Prevention and Volunteer Appreciation Month"

in the City of Cooper City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 25th day of April 2023.



GREG ROSS
Mayor, City of Cooper City

