

# Proclamation

## Recognizing October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month

**Whereas**, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that affects approximately 1 in 700 babies born each year in the United States and throughout the world, leading to intellectual and developmental challenges, but also unique strengths, potential, and abilities; and

**Whereas**, individuals with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities, talents, and contributions, enriching our communities with their unique perspectives and strengths; and

**Whereas**, people with Down syndrome can lead fulfilling lives, including attending school, pursuing higher education, engaging in meaningful employment, and participating in recreational activities, just as their peers without disabilities; and

**Whereas**, families, caregivers, and support networks play a crucial role in empowering individuals with Down syndrome to reach their full potential, fostering inclusion, acceptance, and the opportunity to live as independent, self-determined, and valued members of society; and

**Whereas**, ongoing research and advancements in medical care and support services provide new opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome to lead fulfilling, healthy, and independent lives, deserving of dignity and respect; and

**Whereas**, early intervention, inclusive education, quality health care, and community support have been shown to significantly enhance the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome, promoting their physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development; and

**Whereas**, Cedar Bridge Foundation, through its commitment to Building Resources, Inclusion, Development, Growth, and Education (BRIDGE), provides invaluable support and resources for individuals with Down syndrome and their families, championing a holistic approach to empowerment and advocacy; and

**Whereas**, the month of October is nationally recognized as Down Syndrome Awareness Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the abilities and achievements of individuals with Down syndrome, while also raising awareness about the challenges they face and the importance of advocating for their rights and opportunities.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I PATTI KING, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH do hereby proclaim **October** as **Down Syndrome Awareness Day** in Flagler Beach, and I encourage all citizens to celebrate the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome, foster a culture of inclusion, and advocate for a society where everyone has equal opportunities to thrive.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

*CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH, FLORIDA*

---

*PATTI KING, MAYOR*