

Town of Moncks Corner
South Carolina Proclamation
Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, South Carolina's 1.1 million children residing in diverse communities across our state, including more than 60,000 children in Berkeley County, are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of our great state; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including neglect and abuse, is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children and youth; 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, mental and behavioral health, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that build strong children and strengthen families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community in partnership to build awareness about child abuse and neglect and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children, youth and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and

WHEREAS, in state fiscal year 2024-2025, there were 7,024 substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations with 12,371 children in South Carolina, and 330 investigations with 579 children in Berkeley County; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 Kay Phillips Child Advocacy Center saw 2,048 total clients, and 1,072 in Berkeley County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr. and Town Council Members, of the Town of Moncks Corner in the great state of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the Town and encourage all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for every child.

Signed this 17th Day of March, 2026

Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr., Mayor