



## Child Abuse Prevention Month

**WHEREAS**, children are our nation’s most vulnerable members as well as our nation’s most valuable resources, helping to shape the future of our country; and

**WHEREAS**, positive childhood experiences —like loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships—can help mitigate trauma and the negative impact of adverse childhood experiences to promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS**, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects throughout an individual’s lifetime and impact future generations of their family; and

**WHEREAS**, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious problem affecting every community in the U.S., and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, children who live in families with access to concrete economic and social supports are less likely to experience abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention is possible because of the partnerships created between child advocacy organizations, families, prevention advocates, child welfare professionals, education, health, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and local, state, and national governments; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that in order to solve the public health issue of abuse and neglect we must work together to change hearts and mindsets through storytelling and sharing, center the needs of families, break down bias and barriers, and inspire action from expected and unexpected partners in prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, we are committed to advancing equitable, responsive, and effective systems that ensure all children and families are healthy and thriving; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the need to prioritize kids and invest in more prevention initiatives like family-strengthening policies, mental health services for children and parents/caregivers, economic supports, and community-based child abuse prevention programs at the national, state, and local levels; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, John Bearrows, Mayor of the City of Rochelle, do hereby proclaim **April 2026** as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH** and urge all citizens to recognize this month by building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention.

Dated 23rd day of March 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Bearrows, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
RoseMary Huéramo, City Clerk

