

**Before the Board of County Commissioners  
Martin County, Florida**

**A Proclamation**

**Declaring Child Abuse Prevention Month in Martin County, Florida**

- Whereas,** children are vital to our future success, and every child has the right to be safe, healthy and happy; and
- Whereas,** all children deserve to receive love, nurturing and care and live in communities that foster their healthy growth and development; and
- Whereas,** child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility, affecting both the current and future quality of life of any community; and
- Whereas,** Hibiscus Children’s Center upholds the legacy of transforming the lives of children and families, and embraces opportunities that can potentially change the way society cares for children; and
- Whereas,** Hibiscus Children’s Center honors its Founder, LaVaughn Tilton (1925-2021) by recognizing LaVaughn’s vision, passion and commitment to create a safe place for abused children which came to fruition in 1985 when she founded Hibiscus Children’s Center. Hibiscus has since provided 450,000 safe nights to over 3,500 abused, abandoned and neglected children on the Treasure Coast.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that April 2023 is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Martin County, Florida. Further the Board congratulates Hibiscus Children’s Center on serving the communities on the Treasure Coast and commends them for their work of providing a safe haven and services including mental health counseling to children and families in our community.

**Presented this Fourth Day of April 2023**

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE  
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

\_\_\_\_\_  
EDWARD V. CIAMPI, CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
HAROLD E. JENKINS II, VICE CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
DOUG SMITH, COMMISSIONER

\_\_\_\_\_  
STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

\_\_\_\_\_  
SARAH HEARD, COMMISSIONER