



**Hardin County  
Child Abuse Prevention Month 2019**

Whereas, our children are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of Hardin County;

Whereas child abuse and neglect directly harms children and increases the likelihood of long-term physical and mental health problems, alcohol and substance abuse, continued family violence and criminal behavior;

Whereas, children suffering from child abuse are more likely to: engage in risky behavior, perform poorly in school, develop unhealthy relationships, suffer from depression, attempt suicide, and express violent aggression, and

Whereas, only \$1 is spent on preventing child abuse in Iowa for every \$50 spent on treating it; and

Whereas, Iowa is leading research efforts to better understand the negative long-term outcomes of child abuse and neglect among adults through the Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACEs), which shows that poor physical health, mental health, and financial health in adulthood is attributed to adverse experiences in childhood, including abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, the risk of child abuse is reduced through strong social supports for adults and children; and

Whereas, research shows that the presence of one caring relationship in a child's life mitigates negative outcomes and reduces risk factors, resulting in better physical health, mental health, and financial health; and

Whereas, positive social supports for children and adults are key factors to improving social well-being in Iowa; and

Whereas, the Connections Matter® initiative supported by the Hardin County Child Abuse Prevention Coalition promotes the development of positive social supports and communicates the healing power of relationships in children's development and the community's growth; and

Now Therefore, We, The Hardin County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Hardin County and urge all citizens to in our community to increase their participation in building caring connections with families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reneé McClellan

\_\_\_\_\_  
BJ Hoffman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lance Granzow