

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION TEMPLATE

Whereas, child abuse and neglect is a community condition and problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people in the community;

Whereas, approximately 3 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year with nearly 3,000 children here in Rhode Island each year;

Whereas, the effects of child abuse and neglect are felt by whole communities, and need to be addressed by the entire community;

Whereas, Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Child Abuse Prevention Network, and the RI Family and Children's Trust Fund are sponsoring several events throughout the month to heighten public awareness of abuse and neglect in communities around the state. These events will provide information and materials that support families to prevent child maltreatment and celebrate people who work with and support children and families; and,

Whereas, a statewide "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign has been launched through the media, public schools, libraries, social service agencies, and businesses during the month of April to celebrate and bring awareness of the great potential of all children in Rhode Island and the need to strengthen all families with support and nurturing; and,

Whereas, the "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign includes the planting of "Pinwheel Gardens" statewide celebrating community partnerships for strengthening the family and protecting all children from abuse and neglect;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

Whereas, all citizens should become more aware of the negative effects of child abuse and its prevention within the community, and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

Now, Therefore, I \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby proclaim April, 2010 as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Rhode Island and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.