



## BRIGHTER WORLD

— CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER —

**TO:** City Council of Craig, Colorado

**FROM:** Julia Luciano-Burns, Program Director of Brighter World Child Advocacy Center

**SUBJECT:** Proclamation Declaring April 2024 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month”

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### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Proclamation declaring April 2024 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Moffat County.

### **BACKGROUND**

Brighter World Child Advocacy Center has been dedicated to serving children and families in Moffat, Routt, and Grand Counties since 2021. We provide crucial investigative services and ongoing support for those who have witnessed or experienced abuse, neglect, or violence. Our impactful work is made possible through collaboration with numerous community partners who share our commitment to reducing and treating child abuse and neglect in Moffat County.

Our valued community partners include the District Attorney’s Office for the 14th Judicial District, Moffat County Sheriff’s Office, Craig Police Department, Moffat County Department of Human Services, ACTSS (formerly Open Heart Advocates), ISST, and other key stakeholders.

In 2023, 43% of the cases referred to Brighter World involved children living in Moffat County. These cases ranged from witnessing domestic violence to peer-to-peer sexual assault, physical and sexual abuse by a trusted adult, and sexual exploitation. Despite the diversity of experiences, a common thread of resilience was evident in every child and non-offending caregiver who came through our doors. However, children should not be faced with the need to develop resilience against abuse or neglect. They deserve protection and care above all else.

As a community, we bear a collective responsibility to prevent child abuse. This entails learning to identify potential signs of abuse, recognizing our role as mandatory reporters or trusted adults, investing in programs that support and educate families, and fostering an environment where violence is not tolerated.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Proclamation



**PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2024 AS “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH” IN MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO**

**WHEREAS**, every one of the more than 1.2 million children in Colorado, approximately 3,308 children in Moffat County, today deserve to be valued, healthy, and thriving; and

**WHEREAS**, children are our future employees, leaders and neighbors and will shape the future of Colorado; 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**, all adults have a responsibility as caregivers, neighbors, community members, and citizens in Moffat County to help create healthy, safe and nurturing experiences for children and youth; 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 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 recognize the need to prioritize kids and invest in more prevention initiatives like home visiting and family-strengthening policies, economic supports, and community-based child abuse prevention programs at the national, state, and local levels; and

**WHEREAS**, strengthening families remains the best approach to promoting brighter childhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Nichols, Mayor, do hereby proclaim April as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Moffat County, Colorado and urge all citizens to recognize this month by building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the promotion of an ecosystem of primary prevention.

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Chris Nichols, Mayor