



WHEREAS, children are the embodiment of innocence and hope for the future, and every child deserves to grow up in a nurturing environment, free from harm and fear; and

WHEREAS, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, secure, and protected from verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse, exploitation, and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect causes serious harm to child development and has lifelong effects that reduce well-being and productivity and create greater demands on society; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure every family is safe, secure, and has the support needed to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, by providing our children a safe and nurturing environment, free of domestic violence, abuse, and neglect, we can ensure that children grow to their full potential as leaders, helping to secure the future of this great state and nation; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of strong partnerships created among families, social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, government entities and the business community; and

WHEREAS, 1.3 million Illinois families GIVE to charity each year, with an estimated \$780 million directed to human services organizations that promote safe, loving homes and brighter futures for kids supported by strong families and communities; and

WHEREAS, more than one million Illinoisans VOLUNTEER their time each year as tutors, mentors and coaches for youth, supporting families in raising their children in a nurturing, safe environment; and

WHEREAS, Illinoisans ACT by making over 250,000 calls to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline each year, by offering a temporary safe haven for more than 14,000 children as foster families, and by providing permanent, loving homes for more than 17,000 children through adoption over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, thanks to those who fulfill their social responsibility to report suspected abuse or neglect to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 25-ABUSE, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services receives, investigates and acts on a report of child abuse or neglect every five minutes, child sexual abuse every two hours, and a child death by abuse or neglect every 36 hours; and

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Illinois, and I encourage all Illinoisans to join their neighbors who GIVE, VOLUNTEER and ACT every day to prevent child abuse and ensure safe, loving homes and brighter futures for all children, ultimately strengthening families and the communities across the state in which we live.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,

this FIFTEENTH day of MARCH, in

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and

THIRTEEN, and of the State of Illinois

the one hundred and NINETY-FIFTH

Dorise White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR