

To: Goodhue County Board

From: Goodhue County Sexual Assault Multi- Disciplinary Action Response Team (SMART)

Subject: Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month

Date: March 26, 2025

The Goodhue County SMART was formed over 15 years ago and the mission of the SMART is to promote a unified and inclusive, survivor centered response to those who have experienced sexual violence in any form. Current members of the Goodhue County SMART include: HOPE Coalition, Red Wing Police Department, Lake City Police Department, Goodhue County Health & Human Services (Child Protection and Public Health), Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), Mayo Clinic Health Systems- Red Wing, Goodhue County Attorney's Office, Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, Covered Bridge Family Resources, St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), and Minnesota State College Southeast.

The attached Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month highlights that sexual violence can impact all residents and it is a community responsibility to work together to educate others about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors.

The members of the Goodhue County SMART ask the Goodhue County Board to sign the attached Proclamation, recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Proclamation in Recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month

Whereas, the issues of sexual violence and child abuse, have many connections. Both are part of overarching experiences of harm that contribute to the continued reproduction of trauma and oppression in society and across generations.

Whereas, nationally one in three women and one in four men will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime and one in five girls and one in twenty boys is a victim of child sexual abuse; and

Whereas, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show that every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted; and

Whereas, sexual abuse, assault, and harassment affect individuals of every background; and

Whereas, the purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month is to raise public awareness about these issues, educate our community on how to prevent it and share resources available to those impacted by sexual assault and child abuse.

Whereas, the goal of this month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence; provide education on individual and societal impacts; and encourage community level responses to sexual violence; and

Whereas, the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is "Together We Act, United We Change." The theme's focus highlights the power of working together to create safer, more respectful environments for all; and

Whereas, ending child abuse and sexual violence is a community responsibility. We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent child abuse and sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

Whereas, anyone can be a leader in preventing and ending child abuse and sexual violence. As employers, educators, parents, and friends, we all have an obligation to uphold the basic principle that every individual should be free from violence and fear; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Goodhue County Board, on behalf of all residents of Goodhue County, does hereby proclaim the month of April 2025, as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month in Goodhue County, to keep our community members safe from these crimes and to stand with survivors and victims of sexual assault and child abuse.