2015 DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, more than 500,000 South Carolina residents and families are impacted by severe lifelong disabilities, including autism, head injuries, spinal cord injuries, mental retardation and related disabilities, without regard to race, culture, geography, age, sex or economic class; and

WHEREAS, people with lifelong disabilities are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members deserving of respect and opportunities for economic self-Sufficiency, independence and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Board work with families to provide services that promote independence and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, we owe a special debt of gratitude to the caregivers who selflessly provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to our residents with disabilities and special needs; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Observance of Disabilities Awareness Month celebrates the successful partnership between people with and without disabilities as well as the increasing involvement of people with disabilities in education, employment, and community activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Lisa Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2015 as **DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IN THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON** and encourage our citizens to work together to promote increased opportunities for people with disabilities; to recognize the many contributions made by the people with disabilities to our community; and to honor the dedication of the caregivers who bring support and hope to their fellow citizens.

Dated this Tenth Day of March 2015.

Lisa Sulka

Lisa Sulka, Mayor