



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON PROCLAMATION FOR
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

Whereas, Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that child abuse and sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of Beaufort County; and

Whereas, Sexual assault impacts our community as seen by statistics indicating that 1 in 5 women and 1 and 33 men will be a victim of sexual violence in their lifetime; and

Whereas, Hope Haven of the Lowcountry, our local Children's Advocacy and Rape Crisis Center, served 588 primary victims, 1,421 secondary victims of child abuse and sexual assault and received 402 hotline crisis calls in 2015; and

Whereas, 81% of victims served through Hope Haven were 17 years of age and under with 52% being under the age of 11 and on average, 6 children received a forensic interview per week in 2015; and

Whereas, Beaufort County has dedicated individuals and organizations who work daily to counter the problem of child maltreatment, sexual assault, and help victims obtain the assistance they need; and

Whereas, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can successfully reduce child abuse and sexual violence in Beaufort County through prevention, education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit violence responsible for their actions; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, I, Lisa Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, South Carolina, join advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end child abuse and sexual violence. Along with the United States Government and the State of South Carolina, I do hereby proclaim April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" on this Twelfth day of April 2016.

Lisa Sulka, Mayor