

**Proclamation:
Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, April 2024**

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2023, the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services confirmed 59,649 victims of child abuse or neglect, including 193 in Donley, Gray, Hansford, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts, and Wheeler Counties; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for children and families;

WHEREAS, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting Texas' future;

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates® – CASA volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest and help ensure a child's voice is heard;

WHEREAS, every child in foster care deserves a CASA volunteer, but roughly less than half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer;

WHEREAS, 9,590 CASA volunteers spoke up for the best interest of 23,943 children in Texas last year;

WHEREAS, CASA of the High Plains, Child Protective Services, Child Advocacy Centers, foster parents, teachers and others work to ensure that children in our community have a safe, happy future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael Ray, MAYOR OF LEFORS, TEXAS, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in LEFORS and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Signed



Michael Ray
Mayor

Attest:



Lindy Forsyth, TRMC
City Secretary



