

Proclamation

Autism Awareness Month and

The Hamilton County Autism Support Group

WHEREAS, Autism is a pervasive developmental disorder that typically appears during the first three years of life. Autism affects a person's ability with significant social deficits, learning, and behavioral challenges.

WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest-growing neuro-developmental condition, the estimates that the lifetime cost of caring for a child with autism ranges from \$3.5 million to \$6.7 million.

WHEREAS, every 20 minutes a child is diagnosed with autism. The prevalence of autism is 1 in every 110 American children, and almost 1 in 70 boys.

WHEREAS, there is no known single cause for autism, but increased awareness and funding can help many families.

WHEREAS, 1.5 million Americans have some form of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

WHEREAS, Indiana is the 7th ranked state with the highest incidence of autism. Know the early diagnosis.

WHEREAS, 1 in 101 children in our state have an autism diagnosis through their school system.

WHEREAS, Autism is often a significant social deficit for individuals who have autism. Be a good friend.

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Autism Support Group has received numerous calls from families in Hamilton County in the past 3 years for support and funding. More support for families, teachers, childcare providers, churches, community leaders and business organizations is needed.

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Autism Support Group projects a staggering increase in the incidence in Autism in Indiana over the next 10 years. Autism is real, there is no cure. We need your help, support and funding to provide for our families in Hamilton County who are affected with a family member with autism for our programs.

WHEREAS, The City of Westfield and Hamilton County believes in encouraging all citizens in supporting families affected by autism and of the support of Hamilton County Autism Support Group and their mission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, J. Andrew Cook, do hereby proclaim each year in April as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Westfield and Hamilton County. I, as Mayor of the city of Westfield enthusiastically endorse, and encourage all citizens, businesses, civic groups, faith groups, health and medical facilities, schools, and public agencies to increase their participation in efforts supporting families with autism.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I, J. Andrew Cook, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Westfield, Hamilton County and State of Indiana on this 12 day of April, 2010.

J. Andrew Cook