

The Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners

**SPONSORED BY: COMMISSIONERS MAGGIE HART STEBBINS, ART DE LA CRUZ
DEBBIE O'MALLEY, LONNIE C. TALBERT, and WAYNE A. JOHNSON**

WHEREAS, Bernalillo County's future health, wellbeing, and prosperity depend upon fostering the healthy development of more than 175,000 children living, growing, and learning within our communities; and

WHEREAS, children need safe, stable, and nurturing relationships with their caregivers and safe, stimulating environments to grow well, learn well, and succeed in school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, adverse childhood events like child abuse affect brain architecture and impair a child's ability to succeed in school, manage emotional stress, and make socially-appropriate decisions; and

WHEREAS, child abuse has long-term consequences including chronic disease, substance abuse, and mental health problems in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, each incident of non-fatal child abuse or maltreatment carries an economic burden of over \$210,000 over the life course of each victim; and

WHEREAS, child abuse negatively influences a child's ability to contribute substantively to his or her community now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, children in families with supportive social networks, adequate and stable housing, positive parenting skills, and access to healthcare and social services are less likely to experience child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo County government is committed to improving the environments in which our children grow, play, and learn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernalillo County Board of County Commissioners recognizes April 2015 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

and supports efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of all children in Bernalillo County.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Chair

Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair

Debbie O'Malley, Member

Lonnie C. Talbert, Member

Wayne A. Johnson, Member

ATTESTED BY:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
County Clerk