

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year, including over 180,000 calls annually to child protective services in New Jersey; and nearly 8,000 children are removed from their homes because of severe abuse or neglect, others are left in the home with services, and other cases are dismissed because of lack of evidence of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the effects of child abuse are both inhumane and costly, involving the mental health system, juvenile justice system, law enforcement agencies, criminal and civil courts, and health care and educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the "Go Blue for CASA" campaign is coming to our community, bringing with them the notion that effective child abuse prevention efforts succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community, and also because of organizations such as CASA; and.

WHEREAS, the majority of child maltreatment cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community and child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Stephen K. Pote, do hereby proclaim April as:

GO BLUE FOR CASA MONTH

in the Borough of Watchung, and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities and businesses to become a powerful friend to children and parents by supporting the families in our community with friendship, information and participation in efforts to prevent child abuse.

March 20, 2014

Date

Stephen K. Pote

Stephen K. Pote, Mayor