



National Autism Acceptance Month Proclamation – April 2023

WHEREAS, Autism Acceptance Month, previously named Autism Awareness Month, in April aims to celebrate and promote acceptance for the condition that occurs in one in every 54 children as of 2020 in the United States.

WHEREAS, autism, a complex developmental condition affecting the patient’s ability to interact, communicate, and progress, has not one but many subtypes. First held in the year 1972 by the Autism Society, Autism Acceptance Month emphasizes the need for public awareness to promote acceptance, celebrate the differences, and be more inclusive towards autistic individuals around us.

WHEREAS, every April, the Autism Society works to build an inclusive community where autistic individuals are embraced and supported to achieve the highest quality of life possible.

WHEREAS, The Autism Society was founded in 1965 by Bernard Rimland. It is driven by the fact that autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the world, the Autism Society hosted one of its first nationwide efforts of an awareness campaign called National Autistic Children’s Week in 1972, which subsequently evolved into the Autism Awareness Month earmarked in April.

WHEREAS, in 2021, Autism Awareness Month was renamed Autism Acceptance Month to foster acceptance and ignite changes. The Autism Society deeply understands the need to foster awareness and acceptance to ignite change and a healthier lifestyle through improved opportunities for people with autism. The organization caters to more than 600,000 people living under the “autism onslaught”, using tools like community partnerships with organizations, digital and print resources, along with events and referrals to spark empathy and inclusivity.

WHEREAS, with the autism diagnosis rate increasing fast, we take these 30 days of April, to celebrate the differences, learn more about, and empower autistic individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that the City of Hanahan does hereby join the nation in recognizing April 2023 as **National Autism Acceptance Month**, as a symbol of our commitment to creating a culture of disability awareness and inclusion for all members of our community.

Duly done this the 18th day of April 2023.

Christie Rainwater, Mayor

Emily Huff, Clerk of Council