

National Child Abuse Awareness Month April 2023

Our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the City of Boulder, but child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse. Protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children. Effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families. Communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families.

Local county human services agencies in Colorado assessed the safety of more than 50,678 children. Of those children 10,918 children experienced abuse and neglect and an additional 17,024 children's families received voluntary support from social services to help strengthen their relationships and prevent child abuse or neglect in the future. Local non-profit Blue Sky Bridge administered youth and family services like forensic interviews and crisis counseling to a total of 152 city youth and families in 2022. Another local organization, Voices for Children, reported that at least 193 city youth survivors of child abuse/domestic violence received court appointed special advocates and advocacy services in 2022.

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, and nurturing environment. Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

We, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado declare April 2023 as

National Child Abuse Awareness Month



Aaron Brockett, Mayor

