The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 23 OF 2017

WHEREAS, every day in Centre County children are at risk of abuse and neglect or have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Centre County has 28 caseworkers and 7 casework supervisors in the office of Children and Youth Services and recognize the need to intervene to protect children in our community; and

WHEREAS, child welfare caseworkers are responsible for the difficult tasks of investigating child abuse, providing services to families, assessing safety, initiating steps to protect children and providing services to ensure that children are provided with healthy and nurturing care and support as they transition into adulthood and needed services in an effort to reunify families; and

WHEREAS, the work of caseworkers requires them to enter into situations in which their personal safety may be put at risk; and

WHEREAS, child welfare caseworkers work in severely trying and emotional situations with children who have been victimized by physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and other forms of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, to be successful, child welfare caseworkers must develop great skill in working with families who are in crisis situations, struggling with mental health challenges, suffering from drug and alcohol **conditions**, poverty and other difficult issues; and

WHEREAS, innumerable injuries and deaths of children have been averted due to the efforts of child welfare caseworkers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Centre County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 1, 2017 as "Child Welfare Caseworker Appreciation Day" in Centre County and encourage all citizens to show gratitude for the services provided by these professionals to ensure the health and safety of the children in our community.

ADOPTED this 1st day of June 2017.

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins, Vice-Chair

Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray, Administrator/Chief Clerk