

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **Summit County Declares April Autism Acceptance, Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—On Monday, March 28, County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council passed legislation declaring the month of April 2022 Autism Acceptance Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Autism Acceptance Month recognizes and celebrates the over 5 million people living with autism in the United States, acknowledging their contributions to countless communities, including Summit County. This year marks the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrate Differences campaign by the Autism Society of Greater Akron and the 15<sup>th</sup> celebration of Autism Awareness Day by the United Nations. Throughout April, residents are encouraged to be mindful of intentional inclusivity for residents across the autism spectrum. Residents are also encouraged to visit the [Autism Society of Greater Akron](#) and the [Autistic Self Advocacy Network's](#) websites for more information.

April is also Child Abuse Prevention Month, which recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Summit County Children Services (SCCS) has been engaged in raising awareness and preventing child abuse and neglect for over 30 years. In support of this campaign, SCCS is promoting Wear Blue Day on April 13 to paint Summit County blue in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, a free two-hour training on digital well-being for families, and the 11th Annual Appreciation Breakfast to recognize the achievements of advocates, community leaders, and community partners who support families and children.

“Each of us can make a commitment to prevent child abuse and neglect, and no matter how big or small, each of us can make a difference in the lives of children and families impacted by abuse and neglect,” said County Executive Shapiro. “Thank you to SCCS for its continued leadership in our community, and thank you to our community members and partners for your contributions to these efforts, we greatly appreciate it.”

### **Events:**

#### **Wear Blue**

Wednesday, April 13

*Paint Summit County blue by wearing or posting blue to highlight Child Abuse Prevention Month.*

#### **Close-Up on Digital Well-Being for Families**

Thursday, April 21

*Sign up for a free, two-hour training on digital-wellbeing.*

**11th Annual Appreciation Breakfast**

Friday, April 29

*“A salute to those who care!” Join us in recognizing the achievements of advocates, community leaders, and community partners who support children and families.*

For more information, visit the [Summit County Children’s Services](#) website.

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