

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Summit County recognizes Autism Acceptance, Child Abuse Prevention, Minority Health Months in April

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—On Monday, March 31, County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council passed three resolutions declaring April to be Autism Acceptance Month, Minority Health Month, and Child Abuse Prevention Month in Summit County.

Autism Acceptance Month celebrates the over 5.4 million people living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the United States. Autism Acceptance centers around the willingness to understand individuals living with autism as unique and valued members of our community with unique abilities, talents, interests, desires, and choosing to include them in our life and activities just as you would include anyone else without autism. Throughout April, residents are encouraged to connect with loved ones and neighbors with ASD and expand our perspectives and understanding of the world around us by listening and learning from those with ASD. To learn more, visit the [Autism Society of Greater Akron](#) or the [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#).

April is also Child Abuse Prevention Month which reaffirms Summit County's commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect. Summit County Children Services (SCCS) provided services to 9,921 children in 2024, as well as operating the 24-Hour Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline. Residents are encouraged to Wear Blue on April 9, 2025, to raise awareness about this important issue. If you or a loved one is concerned that a child is facing abuse or neglect in Summit County, call 330-434-KIDS (5437).

Minority Health Month also takes place in April. Summit County Public Health's (SCPH) Office of Minority Health plays a large role in aiming to reduce healthcare disparities, especially when it comes to Black maternal health. To provide support and services to soon-to-be mothers, SCPH is hosting a Baby Shower and Resource Fair at Akron Pregnancy Services (715 E Buchtel Ave, Akron) on Thursday, April 17 from 12:00pm-2:30pm. It is open to the first 50 pregnant individuals, and the registration deadline is April 4. To register, call or text 330-434-2221. Additionally, SCPH will hold a free Health and Wellness Fair on Wednesday, April 23 at the METRO Transit Center, from 12:00pm-2:00pm. Residents are invited to attend, access resources, and participate in fun activities.

"Taking care of our community is a top priority," said Executive Shapiro, "From ensuring our new moms have access to vital information, like safe sleep practices, at such an exciting and overwhelming time in their life, to accepting our neighbors with ASD with open arms, and keeping our kids safe and secure, it is so important to be intentional about our care and support of each other."

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