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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ridgeland Mayor Proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Mayor of Ridgeland, Gene F. McGee, proclaimed the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Youth Villages, a nonprofit organization with offices in Ridgeland, approached Mayor McGee requesting the proclamation. The Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month was officially signed on March 31, 2008.

In a letter to the Honorable Gene F. McGee from Cindi Henry, Recruiter with Youth Villages, it states "During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we underscore our strong commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect and to ensure that all children have the opportunity to grow up in safe and nurturing environments. Also, the purpose of this observation is to encourage citizens to play an active role in identifying and preventing forms of child abuse. When children are surrounded by positive relationships and experiences, they are more likely to grow into confident and caring adults."

The Proclamation calls upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities and businesses to participate in our efforts to prevent child abuse by wearing blue ribbons in April, as a positive reminder that together we can prevent child abuse in the communities in which we live. Citizens are also asked to call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-222-8000 to report suspected child abuse or neglect. In an emergency, a citizen should call their local police department or 9-1-1.

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