



## VILLAGE OF BOYS TOWN

### *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the unalienable right to freedom, and added the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, and buying or selling of minors for commercial sex, or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of any person for their services of labor or commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is modern-day slavery, claiming more than 27million victims worldwide, and found in the United States most often in the form of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, and debt bondage; violating the most basic rights, and

**WHEREAS**, this horrific crime, which denies human dignity and freedoms, destroys communities and their sense of security and fuels organized crime, exists in every country in the world and every state in our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to its isolating nature, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indications; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that we educate our communities, our young people and families to take an active interest in learning how to recognize the risks and resist predators who use promises, coercion, and threats to manipulate young children into labor or sex trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, increased community education on how to identify victims of human trafficking along with increased knowledge of local resources and services for those affected by these criminal actions can help restore freedom and dignity to identified survivors, as well as help diminish the number of future victims; and

**WHEREAS**, every business, community organization, faith community, family and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; by working to protect our young people from sexual exploitation; by addressing the problem of sex trafficking and pornography; and by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Boys Town joins many other national organizations in their dedication to providing community outreach and education, legislative advocacy, training, supports, and services to survivors of human trafficking, and collaboration with law enforcement; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED** by Dana Washington on behalf of the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, that January is

#### **"HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH"**

In the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, we encourage all our citizens to become more informed on this growing problem, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity, and to work towards solutions to end trafficking in all its forms in our community. If you see something that doesn't look right, act and call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.

Duly adopted this 7th day of January 2025.

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Dana Washington on behalf of the Village of Boys Town