



## VILLAGE OF BOYS TOWN

### *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, mental health conditions are a leading cause of disability in the United States and affect millions of children, adolescents, and adults in Nebraska; and

**WHEREAS**, in the fall of 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics along with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Children's Hospital Association declared a [national emergency in child and adolescent mental health](#). Mental illnesses affect almost every family in America; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health; and

**WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses recover if given the necessary services and supports in their communities and make important contributions in their families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year; and

**WHEREAS**, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help and that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, we must identify strategies to meet these challenges through innovation and action, using state, local and national approaches to improve the access to and quality of care across the continuum of mental health promotion, prevention, and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and


**WHEREAS**, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED** by Lori Scharff, on behalf of the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, that May is

## **"MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH"**

During Mental Health Awareness Month, the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska joins the nation in raising awareness of mental health issues and services. Sharing personal knowledge and experience of what living with mental illness means can reduce the barriers and stigma associated with individuals seeking mental health treatment to live a longer, healthier life. Increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses can reduce stigma and discrimination and promote appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

Duly adopted this 7th day of May 2024.

  
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Lori Scharff  
Village of Boys Town