



## VILLAGE OF BOYS TOWN

### *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a serious public health concern that impacts individuals, families, and communities across our nation and throughout Nebraska; and

**WHEREAS**, behavioral health is an essential component of overall health and well-being, encompassing mental health, emotional wellness, substance use prevention and treatment, resilience, and healthy relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is influenced by a complex combination of factors, including mental health challenges, trauma, substance use, social isolation, adverse life experiences, economic stress, and barriers to accessing care and support, and emerging societal pressures that have intensified behavioral health challenges, particularly among youth; and

**WHEREAS**, strong connections to family, friends, schools, workplaces, faith communities, and other supportive networks promote resilience, foster hope, and serve as protective factors against suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, healing is possible, hope saves lives, and early intervention, effective treatment, and supportive relationships can help individuals successfully navigate periods of emotional distress and crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide affects people of all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, socioeconomic background, and religions, and its impact is felt by families, friends, coworkers and students in all communities across the entire nation; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, approximately one person dies by suicide every 11 minutes, resulting in nearly 49,000 suicides each year; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide remains one of the leading causes of death among young people, underscoring the urgent need to promote emotional well-being, strengthen protective factors, and expand access to prevention, intervention and treatment services and

**WHEREAS**, reducing stigma, promoting help-seeking behaviors, increasing awareness of warning signs, and improving access to behavioral health services are critical strategies for preventing suicide and supporting those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, Boys Town offers an accessible and comprehensive system of behavioral health, medical care, and family support services, including prevention, early intervention, treatment, crisis response, and support through its pediatric and behavioral health providers, the Boys Town National Hotline; Nebraska Family Helpline; 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and community-based services; and

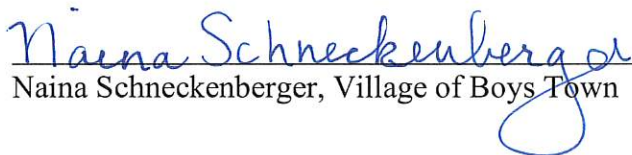
**WHEREAS**, every member of the community can play a role in suicide prevention by fostering connection, showing compassion, supporting those who may be struggling, and encouraging individuals to seek help when needed;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED** by Naina Schneckenberger of the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, that September is

## "SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH"

In the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting behavioral health and well-being for children, youth, families, employees, and community members. We recognize that suicide prevention requires awareness, education, connection, and access to high-quality care. We encourage all individuals to learn the warning signs of suicide, engage in open conversations about mental health and emotional wellness, support one another through life's challenges, and connect those in need with appropriate resources. We affirm that suicide is preventable, healing is possible, and that together we can build a stronger, more compassionate community where every person feels valued, supported, connected, and hopeful.

Duly adopted this 1st day of September 2026.

  
Naina Schneckenberger, Village of Boys Town