



## Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. This month and throughout the year, we encourage all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Lee County a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth, and families in our community.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, community members may be wearing blue or a blue ribbon or displaying a pinwheel, the national symbol for child abuse prevention, outside their home or business. For more resources, activities, and ways to be involved visit the [National Child Abuse Prevention Month website](#) or the [Pinwheels for Prevention website](#).

Each year, during this time, community organizations who are invested in preventing child abuse and neglect, come together for a Mayoral Proclamation signing. We invite everyone in the community to join us for this year's proclamation signing. Event details are included in the invitation below.

# You're Invited

We hope you can join your  
Lee County community partners for the

**2016 Mayoral Proclamation**

in recognition of

**Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month**

Thursday, April 14th ~ 3:00pm

East Alabama Mental Health  
Family & Children's Services

2300 Center Hills Drive, Building II ~ Opelika

334.742.2112 ext. 2865



# We Publix

Thank you to Publix for running an outstanding campaign every year. We are appreciative of the contributions from each employee and for everything Publix does for United Way throughout the year!



## Save the date for *Auburn CityFest*



**Stop by the United Way tent at CityFest!**

**Saturday, April 30th**

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m at Kiesel Park**

United Way of Lee County and some of our partner agencies will have fun and educational activities for children.

We hope to see you there!



### Agency Spotlight:

Lee County  
Autism  
Resource &  
Advocacy

AUTISM  
AWARENESS  
MONTH

Lee County Autism Resources and Advocacy (LCARA) is a non-profit organization that provides resources, workshops, meetings and support opportunities for families throughout Lee County. Working together with educators, business professionals, and parents, their hope is to bring the communities in Lee County a better understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and how families can be affected. ASDs include social deficits, communication disorders and repetitive behaviors and interests. LCARA is the only organization in Lee County that provides these types of opportunities to people in need.

From 2000 to 2010, there was a 517% increase in ASD cases in Alabama. The CDC has estimated that around 1 in 68 children has some degree of autism. LCARA was created by a group of dedicated parents with intentions of learning more about ASD and also providing information to families that are affected by ASD. Today, LCARA has grown to provide services for more than 200 people across Lee County.

LCARA's mission is to "bridge the gap" with resources, workshops and support for families affected by ASDs in Lee County. We are especially excited to share information about LCARA this month because April is Autism Awareness Month, which includes World Autism Awareness Day celebrated April 2nd each year. Keep an eye out for upcoming LCARA April events! To find out more about LCARA or learn how to get involved visit their website at [www.leecountyautism.com](http://www.leecountyautism.com) or [Facebook](#) page.