



Office of the Governor  
State of Missouri

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, children are the foundation for a prosperous and innovative society, and the foundation for a child's growth and development is established when every community and every Missourian takes responsibility for creating healthy environments where our children can thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri supports the Strengthening Families Protective Factors that reduce child abuse and neglect through encouraging Nurturing and Attachment, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Supports for Parents, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children; and

**WHEREAS**, a child's early experience of being nurtured and developing a bond with a consistent, caring adult affects all aspects of behavior and development and is associated later in life with better academic grades, healthier choices, positive peer interactions, and an increased ability to cope with stress; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri recognizes the responsibility of every adult to protect children from all forms of child abuse, including child sexual abuse, and recognizes the importance for all adults, youth-serving organizations, schools and communities to form protective barriers around children; and

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention programs are essential and succeed because of community partnerships created among citizens, social service agencies, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, civic organizations and other child serving agencies; and

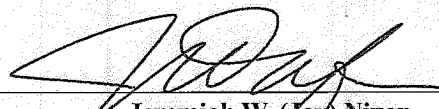
**WHEREAS**, Go Blue Day is April 19, 2013, a day when everyone is encouraged to wear blue to build awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention and inspire change by focusing on community activities and public policies that prioritize prevention.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim April 2013 to be

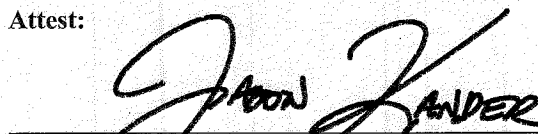
### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.



  
Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor

Attest:

  
Secretary of State