



*A PROCLAMATION OF THE MCLENNAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
RECOGNIZING
NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
In MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS*

WHEREAS In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about Autism and to provide a special opportunity to educate the public on the issues within the Autism community, the Autism Society, since the 1970's, has established the month of April for the celebration of National Autism Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS The *Heart of Texas Autism Network*, in an effort to raise awareness and provide an opportunity to educate the citizens of McLennan County, Texas, on the issue of Autism, will assist in the recognition of April 2011, as *National Autism Awareness Month* in McLennan County, Texas with a **2011 Waco Walk for Autism**; and


WHEREAS The McLennan County Commissioners Court mindful of the importance of recognizing those individuals and institutions that positively affect the communities in which they live and serve, recognizes April 2011 as *National Autism Awareness Month* in McLennan County and wishes to express support for the *Heart of Texas Autism Network*, acknowledging the significance of education and understanding by the Community on an issue of importance; and

WHEREAS **Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** one of the fastest growing significant disabilities in the United States, has risen from 1 in 10,000 children 30 years ago to 1 in 110 children today. It is more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes, and pediatric AIDS combined. Usually diagnosed before age three, people with ASD suffer from neurological, developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges. It is diagnosed in equal numbers across all racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups, but occurs four times more frequently in boys than in girls. Although it is a life-long disorder, dramatic improvements are possible with therapies and interventions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Commissioners Court of McLennan County officially recognizes April 2011, as "*National Autism Awareness Month*" in McLennan County, Texas, and wishes to commend and publicly acknowledge the *Heart of Texas Autism Network* for their advocacy and conscientious efforts in offering support and programs to the families of those with ASD and to the McLennan County, Texas, community, and urges all citizens to join in support of this Recognition; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that a copy of this Proclamation be made a permanent part of the minutes of the Commissioners Court.

WITNESSED OUR HAND AND SEAL this 19th day of April, 2011



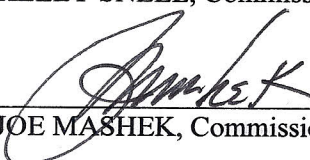
JIM LEWIS, County Judge



KELLY SNELL, Commissioner Pct. 1



LESTER GIBSON, Commissioner Pct. 2

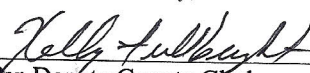


JOE MASHEK, Commissioner Pct. 3



BEN PERRY, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:
J.A. "Andy" Harwell, County Clerk
McLennan County, Texas



By: Deputy County Clerk

