



City of Alachua, Florida
Office of Mayor Gib Coerper

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), works with families, caregivers and professionals to optimize the potential of people with autism and related disabilities in seven non-residential CARD centers across the state of Florida, including CARD/UF serving children and adults of all levels of intellectual functioning; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests autism is the result of neurological anomalies affecting the functioning of the brain and the body, and it is associated with significant alteration of an individual's ability to learn including differences in social behaviors and in verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, persons with autism reach their greatest potential through accurate, early diagnosis with appropriate education and interventions as well as community acceptance and accommodations that are vital to the growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, a greater recognition and understanding of autism can ensure that individuals and families affected by autism living in the City of Alachua and other American communities are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gib Coerper, Mayor of the City of Alachua, representing the City and the City Commission, do hereby recognize the services provided by the UF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and proclaim **April 2016** as

Autism Awareness Month

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of March, 2016

ATTEST:

Gib Coerper, Mayor