



City of Alachua, Florida
Office of Mayor Gib Coerper

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, autism 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, evidence suggests autism is the result of neurological anomalies affecting the functioning of the brain and the body, but little is fully understood about this complex syndrome; 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, it is important that we as a society support families and individuals as they respond to challenges of ASDs and likewise, support initiatives related to autism research, training, information, and availability of services such as the University of Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UF CARD); and

WHEREAS, UF CARD is founded on the belief that all individuals, regardless of disabilities, have the right to live as full participants in society and all families have the right to be treated with sensitivity and respect as integral members of the individual's support system; and

WHEREAS, UF CARD works with families, caregivers, and professionals to optimize the potential of people with autism and related disabilities believing such individuals have the right to services and supports based on their unique characteristics; 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 all 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, 2015** as

Autism Awareness Month

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of March, 2015

ATTEST:

Gib Coerper, Mayor