

PROCLAMATION



Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex neurological developmental disability that can cause significant sensory, social, communication, and behavioral challenges. People with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from neurotypical people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged.

WHEREAS According to the CDC, about 1 in 54 children has been identified with ASD and ASD is about 4.5 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189). ASD can be reliably diagnosed as early as age two, and early diagnosis, appropriate education, and inclusion are vital to the future growth and development of those diagnosed with ASD; and

WHEREAS our understanding of ASD has grown tremendously since it was first diagnosed; the life-long nature of ASD requires diverse types of assistance at different points in a person's life; and

WHEREAS various public and private organizations and agencies strive to provide quality care, support, and services to people with ASD enabling them to live as independently as possible and to reach their full potential, though there is a shortage of caregivers and supports for transition to adulthood, college, employment, and independent living; and

WHEREAS hope lies in an informed community committed to providing support and services to people diagnosed with ASD and recognizing that autistic people bring a lot to the table just as they are.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JACOB A. WOODFORD, Mayor of the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

Autism Acceptance Month

in Appleton and encourage residents to participate in programs and outreach efforts aimed toward educating and supporting ASD awareness.



Signed and sealed this 24th day of March 2023.

JACOB A. WOODFORD
MAYOR OF APPLETON