



ARTHUR BROOKE  
MAYOR

JOHN E. BARCLAY  
CITY CLERK

# Proclamation

## Autism Awareness Month April 2016

**WHEREAS**, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it, and,

**WHEREAS**, as more health professionals become proficient in diagnosing autism, more children are being diagnosed on the autism spectrum, resulting in rates as high as 1 in 68 children nationally and 1 in 65 in Arkansas with boys being affected at a rate of 1 in 42, and,

**WHEREAS**, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive early and intensive treatment throughout their lives, they lead significantly improved lives, and,

**WHEREAS**, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism can present,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ward, Arkansas is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month in a hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Art Brooke, Mayor of the City of Ward, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as **NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in the City of Ward Arkansas and urge all employees and Ward residents to become better educated about autism and create a better community for individuals with autism.

Dated: April 11, 2016

