

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

**DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JANURARY 2021 AS
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a serious crime that affects people of all races, age, and gender; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of human dignity and denies freedom to 32 million people around the world; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry globally; and

WHEREAS, California ranks third among the states in the number of potential reports of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, a serious form of human trafficking involves the exploitation of children and youth for commercial sex acts. It is imperative that our young people and their families learn how to recognize risks and resist predators who use coercion and threats to manipulate children and young adults into sex and labor trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Lake Family Resource Center has been instrumental in leading the way in the County of Lake in addressing human trafficking by providing 24-hour hotline services, and continuing support, advocacy and accompaniment to survivors; and

WHEREAS, preventing human trafficking in Lake County must include active public and private efforts to help recognize and acknowledge existence; and it is time for all of us to start conversations, take appropriate action and support one another to create a safer environment for all residents; and

WHEREAS, many organizations such as the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Lakeport Police Department, Clearlake Police Department and Lake Family Resource Center are committed to ending Human Trafficking in Lake County and provide essential crisis intervention and prevention services to all members of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the month of January 2021 is designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Lake County, and our community is urged to support the efforts of the agencies assisting victims of human trafficking and urges all local governments, schools, businesses and community members to be aware and report any suspicious activity to local police departments and help shine the light on trafficking.