

Proclamation

WHEREAS, those who choose to advocate on behalf of those who cannot represent themselves are the trust of public servants; and

WHEREAS, children are some of our state's most vulnerable citizens. Author and Nobel Prize winner Pearl Buck once reminded us that "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all". When children are abused, they rely on community advocates to make sure that they are not failed by the system and that they are provided with adequate court, medical, and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers have been a part of legislation since the Children's Advocacy Act of 1989; and

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI), a chapter of the National Children's Alliance, have been providing support services to abused children since 1995. CACI is a network of centers that provide comprehensive responses to allegations of child abuse and they have become a leading resource on child abuse issues throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois' (CACI's) purpose is to provide oversight, training, education, and legislative support for the Children's Advocacy Centers throughout Illinois. They do this through their three guiding principles: leadership, education, and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers provide coordination of a multidisciplinary team of interviewers advocacy for court, medical and mental health, and forensic interviewing in order to eliminate the need for multiple interviews of a child victim disclosing abuse. Last year, Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed and facilitated support for more than 10,000 Illinois children; and

WHEREAS, on May 14th, in 29 cities across the State of Illinois, CACI will hold awareness walks on behalf of abused children and Children's Advocacy Centers throughout Illinois; and

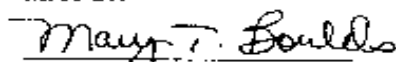
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Hoechst, Mayor of the City of Alton, Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2011, as

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN DAY

in the City of Alton, Illinois, on behalf of children in Alton and throughout Illinois and in recognition of the contributions of all Children's Advocacy Centers in Illinois.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alton, Illinois to be affixed this 26th day of April, 2011.


TOM HOECHST
MAYOR


MARY T. BOULDS
CITY CLERK

