

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** The Surgeon General of the United States reports that 1 in 10 youth has mental health problems. More youth suffer with psychiatric illness than from leukemia, diabetes and AIDS combined. A growing number of children are recognized as having emotional and behavioral disorders each year; and an estimated 200,000 children and youth in Massachusetts exhibit some type of emotional disorder; and
- WHEREAS:** Children's mental health problems can have grave consequences such as school failure, family discord, alcohol and other drug use or violence. The general public lacks the information needed to fully understand children's emotional and behavioral disorders, and
- WHEREAS:** Every adult in our city can have a positive influence on the lives of the children around them through their efforts as parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, counselors and teachers and through membership in organizations, churches and business; and
- WHEREAS:** For over 50 years May has been nationally recognized as Mental Health Month. The National Mental Health Association indicates the necessity for immediate and wide ranging changes in our recognition, acceptance and service delivery to those in need; and
- WHEREAS:** The Central Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, in partnership with PAL (the Parent Professional Advocacy League) Central Mass. Chapter, Community Healthlink/Youth & Family Services, the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Central Mass. Communities of Care, the Bridge of Central Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership will host its 8th annual "Honoring Families – Celebrating Strengths" dinner event on Monday, May 8, 2008 to honor families of children with mental health challenges; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Worcester, along with family organizations and community agencies will participate in the month-long effort to increase awareness and access to mental health services. This effort will include workshops, exhibits, and other events aimed at raising community awareness for children's mental health in our city.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Konstantina Lukes, Mayor of the City of Worcester, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2008 to be:

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH MONTH
In Worcester, and urge all of our citizens to participate in activities in recognition thereof.**

Mayor of the City of Worcester