

## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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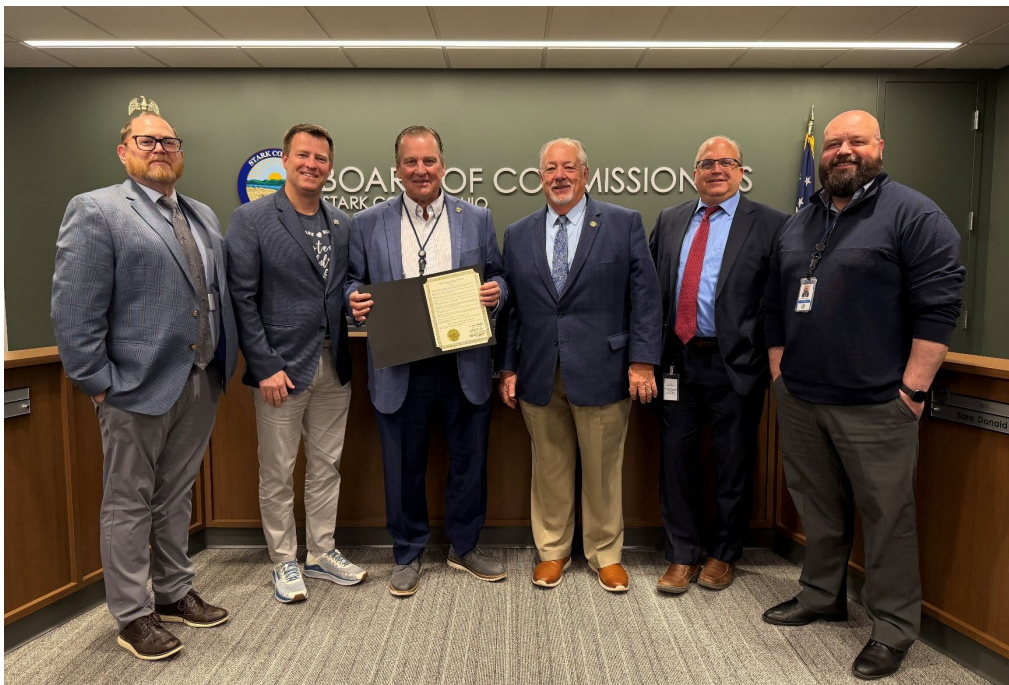
### **STARK COUNTY DECLARES APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**Canton, Ohio** - Stark County Commissioners Richard Regula, Bill Smith, and Alan Harold have declared April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Commissioners presented a proclamation on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, to Stark County Job & Family Services' Executive Director, Jerry Coleman.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is recognized to raise awareness about child abuse and strengthen families. Child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community. In 2025, Stark County received 8,240 reports of abuse or neglect through the Division of Children Services' abuse hotline. The reports resulted in 2,472 cases requiring assistance or intervention.

Children who have been subjected to abuse and neglect may develop long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects. Prevention and awareness efforts can help children succeed by encouraging families to build safe, stable, and nurturing environments.

If you are concerned that a child is being abused or neglected, please call (330) 455-KIDS (5437) and ask to speak to a referral specialist. The line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



*Stark County Commissioners issue proclamation to Job & Family Services. Left to right: Stark JFS Executive Director Jerry Coleman, Stark County Commissioners Alan Harold, Richard Regula, and Bill Smith, Director of Management and Budget Chris Nichols, and Director of Human Resources Mike Kimble*