

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, *Healthy Families Alexandria, a program of Northern Virginia Family Service, has provided comprehensive home-visiting services to expectant and new parents in the City of Alexandria since its inception in 1993; and*

**WHEREAS**, *strong, nurturing connections with primary caregivers are critical building blocks for children's developing brains, serving as the essential foundation for lifelong health and well-being, and increased emotional, social behavioral competence; and*

**WHEREAS**, *these foundations plus a respect for education success are strong predictors of academic performance in elementary school and beyond leading to success in life; and*

**WHEREAS**, *during the past 25 years, Healthy Families Alexandria staff has served about 6,000 families who otherwise would not have had the guidance and support to nurture and encourage their children in their earliest years and has connected them to other resources in the community; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Healthy Families Alexandria has provided these services to a diverse group of parents facing unique challenges such as language barriers, socioeconomic stressors, and increased risk of depression, that can negatively impact family relationships; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Healthy Families Alexandria has worked with families whose children range from prenatal through age 5, with emphasis on the earliest years, which are the most critical for individual and family development; and*

**WHEREAS**, *by promoting positive parenting and support, Healthy Families Alexandria has ensured that program families understand the roles family members play in improving relationships and minimizing instances of abuse and neglect; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Healthy Families Alexandria has maintained its accreditation and published annual evaluations demonstrating the positive impact of the program on vital indicators of progress of the children through the process of their physical growth, intellectual development and emotional well-being.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby extend congratulations in celebration of the:

### **“25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HEALTHY FAMILIES ALEXANDRIA”**

*And urged the citizens of the City of Alexandria to join in the celebration of its service to the families in our community.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.

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**MAYOR ALLISON SILBERBERG**  
*On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

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*Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk*