



## **PROCLAMATION**

### ***Autism Awareness Month April 2009***

**WHEREAS**, autism is a lifelong, neurological disability that is characterized by impaired social interaction and communication; and

**WHEREAS**, groups such as Autism Society of America, Santa Barbara, are committed to their mission of advocacy, support, education and providing awareness to families, professionals, and community members toward a better understanding of this disability; and

**WHEREAS**, autism now occurs in 1 out of 150 children; and

**WHEREAS**, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting 36,900 individuals in California; and

**WHEREAS**, on average this year, fourteen children per day enter our state's Developmental Services system with full syndrome autism; and

**WHEREAS**, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment helps individuals with autism and related disorders reach their highest potential; and

**WHEREAS**, autism is a complex disability that requires research to one day find a cure, prevention and appropriate interventions; and greater recognition and understanding to ensure those individuals with autism living in the City of Santa Barbara and all other individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lifetime.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby proclaim April 2009 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** and encourage members of our community to develop a greater understanding of this complex disability that affects so many individuals in the city.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

  
*Marty Blum*  
**MARTY BLUM, MAYOR**