



City of Geneva, Illinois

Offices of the Mayors
Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles

A JOINT PROCLAMATION for PARENTS/GUARDIANS: September 2015

Today we celebrate the Families we have here with us at this Special Event hosted by the Changing Children's Worlds Foundation, and those who could not be here and who we miss.

We celebrate the Parents & Guardians here today, who love and raise their Children in the best way they can - towards the ends of making a contribution to these Children developing into good friends, caring and productive citizens and parents or guardians of others.

Today we would like to recognize the important privilege and responsibility that Parents & Caregivers hold, in raising children who will care about others and who will care for this world of ours - possibly better than we have ever done, because we tried very hard to teach them how.

We recognize today several of the most important qualities of Parents:

- **Empathy for our Children** as they face each their own challenges in life;
- **An Inspired Ethic** that ensures we do what is best for our children's positive development and well-being;
- **A Commitment to being there for our Children** - in the minor as well as important things - and to living our lives as models of what & who we hope they will become;
- **Courage** to allow them to see and understand when we make mistakes or need their help, as well as to allow them to surpass our own goals and exceed our dreams in what they will accomplish with our loving support;
- **High Expectations** for their personal aspirations and accomplishments - which may differ from each child to the next - but brings us pride in them, that they can see shining from our eyes;
- **Trust** that although they may stumble or be afraid, that our undying support and faith in them will help them become strong and confident in their place in the world;
- **Unconditional Love** throughout their successes and failures, their joy and their hurt and their anger at the world, to bring them back to the safe place that is us, their *terra firma*, to which they know they can come back to again and again, all their lives.

Today we recognize and appreciate, we encourage, console and support each other as Parents and Guardians, for all we have done & will do for our Children.

And We Celebrate Our Children - for as they experience joy, as they learn, as they mature and as we see them learn to love...the joy and love we feel far exceeds any we ever thought we might feel in this life.

We celebrate our Children all their lives, all our lives.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand to be affixed this 19th day of
September, 2015.*


Kevin R. Burns, Mayor