



Office of the Mayor  
City of Greenville

# Proclamation

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

**WHEREAS**, autism knows no racial, ethnic, social boundaries, family income, lifestyle or educational levels and can affect any family and any child; and

**WHEREAS**, autism affects an estimated 1 in every 166 children born today. Based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and other governmental agencies, autism is growing at a startling rate of 10-17 percent per year; and

**WHEREAS**, this disability affects each individual differently and at varying degrees - this is why early diagnosis is so crucial. By learning the signs, a child can begin benefiting from one of the many specialized intervention programs; and

**WHEREAS**, it is known that with proper education, training and community living options, individuals with autism can lead distinguished, productive lives in their communities and strive to reach their fullest potential; and

**WHEREAS**, families and dedicated support groups are committed to the cause of educating other families, professionals, and the general public so that they may be aware of and better understand the nature of this disability;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert D. Parrott, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2007 as

## **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

in Greenville and encourage citizens to develop a greater understanding of autism that affects so many individuals.

This 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007.



Robert D. Parrott, Mayor