



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is the gold standard in infant feeding, having a significant impact on maternal and infant health, as well as being recognized as the *normal* way to feed an infant, the standard by which all other infant feeding methods are to be measured; and

WHEREAS, mothers “go for the gold” when they exclusively breastfeed for the first six months of life, continuing to breastfeed for at least one year and beyond (American Academy of Pediatrics) and for two years and beyond (World Health Organization) while adding complementary foods; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that all mothers and infants need access to a *circle of care* to reach recommended breastfeeding goals; and

WHEREAS, this *circle of care* is acknowledged to include the following:

- Family members and other mothers, who have been shown to have a great influence on the mother’s decision to initiate and to continue breastfeeding
- Healthcare providers, whose role in supporting breastfeeding mothers is crucial, especially in the early days and weeks as breastfeeding is being established
- Employers, who see a strong return on their investment when they provide comprehensive lactation support for their employees
- The community, especially in times of crisis or emergency, when mothers need extra support and continued breastfeeding is critical
- The government, whose coordinated support of breastfeeding at both local and national levels, sends a clear strong message that breastfeeding is a top public health priority; and

WHEREAS, World Breastfeeding Week is a special time set aside to remind us of the importance of breastfeeding for health throughout the world with the theme for 2008, “Mother Support: Going for the Gold”;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of August, 2008 as

BREASTFEEDING MONTH

in Greenville and urge our citizens to be part of the *circle of care* for the mothers and babies in our community.

This 21st day of July, 2008.

Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor