

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, *Children's Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to raise awareness of the painful impact that the death of a loved one has in the life of a child; and*

**WHEREAS**, *one out of twenty children will experience the death of a parent before they graduate from high school; children have different grieving periods than adults, and many deal with grief internally and longer than expected; grieving children often feel set apart, different from their peers, alone and not understood; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the Highmark Caring Place is dedicated to grieving children and families, supporting them in their journey toward hope after a loved one dies; the organization has served more than 70,000 families and community members since it began in 1996; and*

**WHEREAS**, *through providing a safe environment where children can share their grief, feelings, and memories, the Highmark Caring Place helps children understand that they are not alone through child-focused, family-based, peer support programming; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Children's Grief Awareness Day began in Pennsylvania from a desire on the part of students to do more to bring attention to what their grieving classmates were coping with, for the most part, in silence; this initiative grew out of an ongoing partnership of the Highmark Caring Place with hundreds of schools across the state; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Allegheny County is thankful to have the Highmark Caring Place in our community and is grateful to the staff and volunteers for the services, support, and love it provides to grieving children and families.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2015 as "Children's Grief Awareness Day" in Allegheny County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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