

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, congenital heart defects, the most common birth defect in the United States, are structural problems with the heart present at birth; defects range in severity from problems, such as "holes" between chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as complete absence of one or more chambers or valves; and*

***WHEREAS**, eight of every 1,000 babies born each year have a heart defect – approximately 1% of live-born infants; most of these children can be helped by surgery even if the defect is severe, with about 9,200 of these newborns requiring invasive treatment before age 1; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mended Little Hearts, a support program for parents of children with congenital heart defects and heart disease, offers resources and a caring support network for families to find answers and move forward to find healing and hope; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Mended Little Hearts Program has been providing hope and support to heart patients and their families since 1951 when four heart patients in Boston, Massachusetts came together to discuss their heart surgery experiences; they quickly realized their shared stories provided both hope and healing in spite of their circumstances; and*

***WHEREAS**, many Allegheny County residents are member of Mended Little Hearts, and we are thankful for the support, education, and services the program provides.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2014 as "Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Week."*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 7th day of February, 2014.*

Rich Fitzgerald

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