

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, CHDs affect nearly 1% of, or about 40,000, births per year in the United States; about 25% of babies with a CHD have a critical CHD; those infants generally need surgery or other procedures in their first year of life; 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, locally, many Allegheny County residents are members 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, 2015 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, 2015.

Rich Fitzgerald

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