

**WHEREAS,** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports the prevalence of autism has risen to 1 in every 68 children in the United States – roughly 60 percent higher than the estimate for 2006. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States affecting over 3.5 million individuals in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** the lifelong nature of autism requires a variety of assistance and supports at different points in an individual's life, with early identification and intervention being critical; and

**WHEREAS,** a number of public and private organizations strive to provide quality care and services to children and adults with autism building on their strengths and helping them to develop the skills they need to live as independently as possible; and

**WHEREAS,** locally, over 40 Sedgwick County affiliated service providers work to assist individuals with developmental disabilities maximize their potential and achieve greater independence; and

**WHEREAS,** Autism Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of individuals with autism who have thrived and excelled in Sedgwick County communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Richard Ranzau, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as

**AUTIMS AWARENESS MONTH**

April 8, 2015