

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Children First was founded in 1961 in Sarasota County and has spent 65 years strengthening children and families by improving the quality of their lives through a comprehensive approach to development, education, health, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Children First serves as the exclusive Head Start and Early Head Start provider for Sarasota County, delivering high-quality early childhood education, health care, nutrition, and family strengthening services to children from birth to five and their families, and is ranked in the top 1% of more than 1,600 Head Start programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Children First continues to be recognized for excellence and impact, including being named a five-time National Head Start Association Program of Excellence and a 2026 Top Workplace USA by USA TODAY, reflecting its enduring commitment to both the community it serves and the dedicated professionals who carry out its mission;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nick Pachota, Mayor of the City of Venice, on behalf of the Venice City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as the

65th Anniversary of Children First

and encourage all residents to recognize and celebrate the organization's lasting impact on children, families, and the future of our community.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Venice to be affixed this 26th day of May, 2026.

Nick Pachota, Mayor