

Heart Heroes, Inc.

Providing Support and Comfort to Children and Families Affected by Congenital Heart Defects (CHD)

#ProclaimTheNation

#CHDAwareness

#HeartHeroes

Dear Mayor _____,

Families of children with congenital heart defects, adults with congenital heart defects, and the professionals who work with them are joining forces to have February 7-14th proclaimed in across the country as "**Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week**".



My name is _____. I am a resident of _____ and mother to an amazing _____, _____, who was born in _____ with a Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) called _____. Because _____ heart was not formed correctly, _____ needed open-heart surgery to repair the defect. _____ has had two open-heart surgeries and has also undergone _____ heart catheterization procedures to maintain _____ heart health. _____'s story is a difficult one as a mother to tell, but it's not as uncommon a story as you might think. **One in every 100 babies** is born with a Congenital Heart Defect - that's about 40,000 babies per year! Congenital Heart Defects are the *number one birth defect worldwide*.

I am writing to you today to see about the possibility of the City of _____ making an executive proclamation declaring the week of February 7 - 14 as **Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week**. We would be so proud and honored _____ will participate in spreading awareness for the most common birth defect! Many states and local governments across the nation are already recognizing this special week in February. An executive proclamation from our local government would really help reinforce the awareness message we're trying to spread.

I am requesting this proclamation in honor of my _____ on behalf of Heart Heroes, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support to children and families affected by CHD, through the distribution of superhero capes, programs to offer support, and funds for CHD research. Heart Heroes is hosting a CHD Awareness Initiative during February, hosting fundraisers and other CHD awareness events on social media and around the country. For more information about Congenital Heart Defects and Heart Heroes' programs, please visit www.heartheroes.org.

I would be extremely proud if _____ was to participate in making February 7 - 14 a special week to recognize people born with heart defects, to *remember* loved ones who lost their battle with CHD, to *honor* the dedicated health professionals who work with us, and to *raise* awareness and funds for the life-saving research that is so desperately needed. I have included a rough draft of what the proclamation could include.

Our city's participation in this event will have a profound impact on thousands of families and individuals. Please feel free to contact me (contact information below) with any questions or if you need anything further. On behalf of Heart Heroes in our city and across the country, I thank you so much for your time and consideration.

With Heart,