

Proclamation

April 28, 2026

Autism Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, autism is a difference in brain development that impacts how people learn, communicate, interact, and behave and results in a wide variety of abilities and challenges; and,

WHEREAS, autism diagnoses in the United States are growing rapidly, affecting more than three million people, but are chronically undertreated and under-supported, creating an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and,

WHEREAS, children and adults continue to be diagnosed with autism at high rates, resulting in prevalences of 1 in 31 children nationally and 1 in 29 in New Jersey, and,

WHEREAS, autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and,

WHEREAS, as the effort to address autism continues, doctors, therapists, and educators can help people with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges, chiefly by providing early, accurate diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education, therapy, and support that are vital to future growth and development; and,

WHEREAS, all individuals with autism deserve respect and the supports they need to live safe and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, some individuals with autism may require a lifetime of specialized treatment and support to ensure their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that people with autism are not denied access to the lifelong care and support needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and achieve their greatest potential should be a cause given greater care, and,

WHEREAS, the Township is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Jennifer Rowland, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in Chatham Township to raise public awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.



Jennifer Rowland, Mayor