



Proclamation

Mental Health Awareness Month 2026

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each May to increase understanding of mental health, reduce stigma, and promote equitable access to care and support for all individuals; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 5 adults in the United States experiences a mental health condition each year, and 1 in 20 lives with a serious mental illness, reflecting the widespread need for care, connection, and support; and

WHEREAS, every person deserves to be met with dignity, to feel heard and respected, and to have access to compassionate, culturally responsive care that affirms their lived experience; and

WHEREAS, mental health is an essential part of overall well-being and is shaped by individual experiences as well as structural factors such as access to healthcare, housing stability, economic opportunity, education, community safety, including exposure to violence; and

WHEREAS, many individuals and families continue to face barriers to care, including cost, limited access to providers, stigma, and systemic inequities, underscoring the need for sustained investment in services, strong systems of care, and a shared commitment to empathy, consistency, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Joliet Township Government supports hope and healing through coordinated community-based services, including behavioral health support within its Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Behavioral Health Program, transportation services that reduce barriers to accessing care, and outreach efforts that connect residents to critical resources; and

WHEREAS, the Joliet Township Government's CVI Behavioral Health Program advances equitable access to mental health care by providing free weekly therapy sessions, service linkage, agency education, and psychoeducation presentations. In the most recent reporting period, the program served 57 new clients, reflecting its ongoing commitment to expanding access, reducing barriers to care, and promoting mental wellness across the community; and

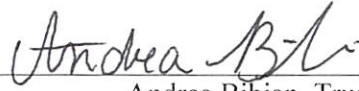
WHEREAS, Joliet Township Government recognizes and uplifts mental health professionals who utilize decolonial and liberatory practices that center reclaiming ancestral knowledge, challenging internalized colonial narratives and reconnecting with non-Western methods of healing, while addressing the impacts of systemic, historical, and intergenerational trauma and working to reduce inequities through culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and equity-centered care; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Joliet Township Government Board hereby recognizes May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Joliet Township and calls upon residents, community partners, and institutions to work together to build a community rooted in compassion, dignity, and collective care where no one feels alone and where hope and healing are possible for all.

ADOPTED this 19th day of May of 2026.



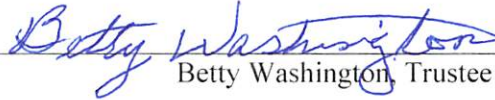
Quinn Adamowski, Trustee



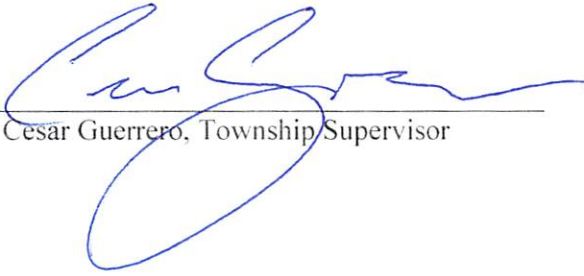
Andrea Bibian, Trustee



Archie Gavin, Trustee

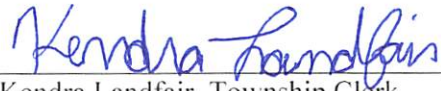


Betty Washington, Trustee



Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

ATTEST:



Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk