

The City of Boston



PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:** Over 1/4 of children growing up in Boston are exposed to family alcohol and/or other substance-use disorders. The unspoken rules these children learn at home are: "DON'T TALK, DON'T TRUST and DON'T FEEL". These children are the first to be hurt and the last to be heard and helped. They have a right to our support, recognition and help and deserve recovery for themselves, AND
- Whereas:** Life has been even more challenging for them through the pandemic with an increase in alcohol and other substance use in families, more isolation and silent shame, fear, loneliness and sadness. We must dismantle the barrier of silence surrounding this issue for children and provide, support, caring, safe and constructive communication and loving kindness for them and their families; AND
- Whereas:** We must be proactive and assertive in our work to identify, educate, activate and support these children and the caring adults in their lives. These children are at the greater risk of becoming chemically dependent than other children and are most vulnerable to other adverse childhood experiences which can profoundly impact them as adults. We can help change the course of their lives using evidence-based, effective supportive education and love. It is our work to do; NOW
- Therefore,** I, Michelle Wu, Mayor of the City of Boston, do hereby proclaim February 12th to February 18th, 2023 to be:

Children of Addictions Week

in the City of Boston

I urge all of my fellow Bostonians to join me in recognizing our children who are impacted by this illness as we work towards a better future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Wu".

MICHELLE WU
MAYOR OF BOSTON
February 12th-18th, 2023

