

Proclamation No. 2017-18

PROCLAIMING MARCH 2017  
*in Recognition and Celebration of*  
**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to promote respect for people with developmental disabilities. This year's theme, **"It Matters to Me – Family is Everything"** highlights our appreciation of the contributions people with developmental disabilities make and our recognition of their vital and vibrant roles in our island community as they improve the quality of life for everyone who calls Guam home.

The Guam Developmental Disabilities Council is involved in advocating for programs that promote positive system changes that allow individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve optimum independence and to promote innovative programs and practices that improve the quality of life for these individuals. The council encourages all Guamanians to actively participate in events that appropriately recognize and celebrate Guam's culturally diverse population, including individuals with developmental disabilities.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month promotes awareness and understanding of the opportunities, challenges and needs of persons with developmental disabilities. It recognizes Guam's public policy accomplishments concerning individuals with developmental disabilities. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month also identifies the improvements to public policy that are needed to ensure that all of Guam's citizens with developmental disabilities have the capacity to lead full, productive and engaged lives. People with and without developmental disabilities come together to form our strong island community, and we must all continue to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAY TENORIO**, *I Maga'Låhen Guåhan Para Pago*, Acting Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby proclaim **March** in recognition and celebration of **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. We recognize the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC), University of Guam, Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (CEDDERS) and the Guam Legal Services Corporation –Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC) and other related organizations who serve as ambassadors on our island for individuals with developmental disabilities, and we encourage all Guamanians to help spread awareness in honor of our island brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereby set my hand and cause the Great Seal of Guam to be affixed in the Capital City of *Hagåtña*, on this **Second** day of **March** in the Year of Our Lord, *Anno Domini*, **Two Thousand Seventeen**.



**RAY TENORIO**  
*I Maga' Låhen Guåhan Para Pago*  
Acting Governor of Guam