

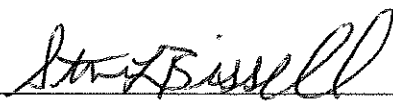
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, The next generation will be stewards of our communities, nation and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character; and
- WHEREAS, More than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups; and
- WHEREAS, The character of the nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens, and the public good is advanced when young people are taught that good character counts in personal relationships, in school and in the workplace; and
- WHEREAS, While character development is first and foremost the responsibility of families, efforts by faith communities, schools, civic and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character; and
- WHEREAS, In July of 1991 the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders, and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society; and
- WHEREAS, The Aspen Declaration states that "The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to promote the development of good character".
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven L. Bissell, Vice Mayor of the City of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, do hereby proclaim October 21-October 27, 2007 as

CHARACTER COUNTS! WEEK

in Mt. Pleasant, commending the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition of Isabella County on its goal to strengthen the moral fiber of the next generation, and encourage all citizens, corporate and individual, to model traits of good character in an ongoing commitment to promote character development and ethical behavior among our youth, and urge all members of the community to seek out opportunities to incorporate core ethical values into their work with young people.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and the Great Seal of the City of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan this 8th day of October, 2007.



Steven L. Bissell, Vice Mayor