



**Mayor Russ Wall**

## Mayor's Message: April 2009

In 2008 there were approximately 4,438 victims of child abuse in Salt Lake County. That number is not the number of reported cases, but reflects the actual number of substantiated abuse cases. Child abuse may be physical, sexual or neglect. This means that each and every day 12 children in our county suffer the damaging and long term effects of child abuse. Many times children who experience abuse as a child grow up to be abusive to their own children, thereby condemning another generation to this harmful practice.

Child abuse is a plague on our society that crosses racial, religious, socio-economic, as well as geographic boundaries. All aspects of our society are affected. Generations of families have grown up in abusive environments. We must find ways to educate ourselves in ways to recognize abuse when we see it and ways to educate and commit ourselves to the statement that *“ALL children deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment to assure they reach their full potential.”*

Therefore, we are participating with other Mayors and City Councils throughout the country in proclaiming **April 2009** as **“Child Abuse Prevention Month”** and encourage each of you to become more aware of the problem and commit to participate by becoming a part of the solution.

The Family Support Center in Taylorsville will be conducting events throughout the month of April to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse prevention. For more information contact Diane Spencer at (801) 955-9110 extension 103.

The Taylorsville Exchange Club has also done an amazing job in child abuse prevention and awareness. For information, please contact Club President Linda Hardman at (801) 450-4058 or [lhily@earthlink.net](mailto:lhily@earthlink.net).

Another organization that has done great work in Taylorsville is B.A.C.A. (Bikers Against Child Abuse). For more information, please contact their information line at (801) 860-9860 or website [www.bacausa.com](http://www.bacausa.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ Wall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.