



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, all residents of Cook County should be aware of the ever-present dangers posed by potentially harmful substances in their home, work and play environments; and

**WHEREAS**, children too often have access to over-the-counter and prescription medications and potentially harmful household products; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than 50 years, the nation has been observing National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) and the Illinois Poison Center celebrates March as Illinois Poison Prevention Month (IPPM) to help prevent unintentional poisonings and to share tips for promoting community involvement in poison prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Illinois Poison Center, the oldest and one of the largest poison centers in the nation, will be celebrating its 60th year of providing poison prevention and treatment recommendations to the people of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Poison Center is a mainstay in the emergency medical care system of the State of Illinois and is recognized nationally for its contributions to poison treatment and prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 50 percent of the 77,000 poisonings reported last year to the Illinois Poison Center involved children under the age of five; most of these poisonings could have been prevented; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 90 percent of the exposure calls received from the public are treated over the phone, quickly and safely by experienced, expert staff of the poison center rather than in an emergency room.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that March of 2013 shall be "Poison Prevention Month" in Cook County. I congratulate and thank the Illinois Poison Center for providing outstanding public education and treatment advice to the State of Illinois and Cook County for 60 years.

**TONI PRECKWINKLE**, President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners