

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY, 2014
"MENTORING MONTH"
IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, youth mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces young people to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, Fighting Back Santa Barbara, through the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, has provided a school based youth mentor program for 20 years which has positively impacted the lives of thousands of local youth and their adult mentors; and

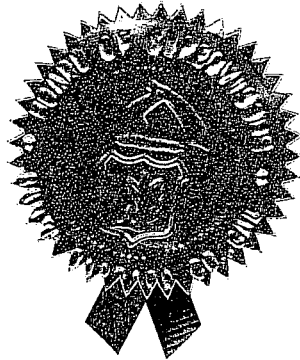
WHEREAS, the Fighting Back Mentor Program is a one-year minimum commitment that matches adult mentors with vulnerable and "at-risk" youth in a school based setting. In 2013 they supported 139 youth with over 7,000 hours of one-on-one mentoring in the South Coast Region. In many cases these matches have lasted for years and are the beginning of a life-long friendship; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs, including the Fighting Back Mentor Program, have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy. In addition, research shows that youth who participate in mentoring relationships experience a multitude of other positive benefits including being more engaged in school and their communities, finishing high school and continuing on to college; and

WHEREAS, mentoring is a cost-effective investment in the future of our community with every \$1 invested in mentoring youth providing a \$3 return. However, despite these benefits, there is a "mentoring gap," between the availability of mentoring programs and volunteers, and the number of young people in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims January as "Mentoring Month" in Santa Barbara County and encourages residents of our community to participate in mentoring and support the expansion of mentoring services to all youth in need.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 21st day of January, 2014 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Monique Sato
Clerk of the Board

L. O. C. S.

Supervisor - 1st District

Janet Wolf

Supervisor - 2nd District

William Lee

Supervisor - 3rd District

Pete K. Adams

Supervisor - 4th District

St. J. Sweeney

Supervisor - 5th District