

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY, 2015 "MENTORING MONTH" IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership created National Mentoring Month; and

WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help them discover personal strength and achieve their potential through a structured and trusting relationship that encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces new ideas; and

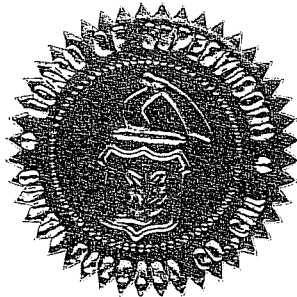
WHEREAS, mentoring programs are effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy and are a proven cost-effective investment: for every \$1 invested in mentoring, there is a \$4.70 return to society. Yet despite these benefits, one in three youth will reach age 19 without a mentor – constituting a "mentoring gap" that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources; and

WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has recruited, screened, trained and matched caring mentors with children for 115 years and since 1983, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Barbara County, a program of Family Service Agency, has provided caring role models to thousands of children in our region; and

WHEREAS, children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Barbara County improved academic performance (86%), avoided delinquency (89%), had a stronger sense of self-confidence (90%), and made better, safer decisions (85%);

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 20th day of January, 2015 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Monica Pignatelli
Clerk of the Board

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Supervisor - 1st District
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Supervisor - 2nd District
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Supervisor - 3rd District
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Supervisor - 5th District