

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY, 2016
"MENTORING MONTH"
IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA

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

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara's Fighting Back Coalition, through the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, has provided a school based youth mentor program for over 21 years which has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of local youth and their adult mentors; and

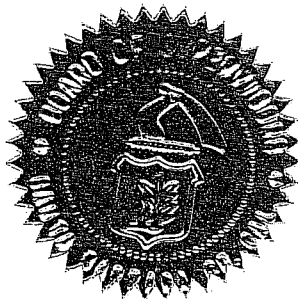
WHEREAS, the Fighting Back Mentor Program is a one-year minimum commitment that matches adult mentors to vulnerable and "at-risk" youth in a school based setting. Currently, there are 112 mentor matches that totaled over 5,000 hours in the South Coast Region in 2015. In numerous cases, these matches have lasted many years and are the beginning of life-long friendships; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs have been 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, research has demonstrated that mentoring is a cost-effective investment in the future of our community, with every \$1 invested in mentoring youth providing a \$3 return. Every effort is being made to close the "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 other planned activities.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 19th day of January, 2016 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Sharon Dreyfus
Clerk of the Board

[Signature]
Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District