

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners recognizes January, 2012, as National Mentoring Month to raise awareness for the need for mentors and the impact of mentoring on youth in this community.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a) The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners' values include a commitment to prevention services and programming, tangible and cost effective results from our work, and a focus on the long-term well being of the community.
- b) A mentoring relationship has positive benefits demonstrated in multiple areas of a youth's life. Academically, mentored youth have improved attendance, better attitudes in school, and are more likely to go on to higher education and set career goals. In terms of health and safety, mentored youth are less likely to use illegal drugs or alcohol, or engage in negative behavior. Developmentally, mentor relationships improve a youth's social attitudes and relationships and have a beneficial impact on communication and trust with their families.
- c) Eighty-three percent of youth involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters report that their mentor instilled values which guided them through life.
- d) Mentoring has a positive impact on the mentor as well as the youth being served.
- e) Oregon Mentors partners with nearly 100 programs across the State of Oregon, serving 54,000 youth with nearly 25,000 mentors. These programs provide opportunities that meet the interests and availability of volunteers through programs based in the community, schools, or other program centers, and focuses such as academics, activities, or broader social and emotional development.
- f) Many mentoring programs have long waiting lists and need more volunteers.
- g) Multnomah County citizens have the resources, skills and compassion to develop positive relationships with youth through mentoring.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. Our recognition and support for National Mentoring Month during January, 2012;

2. Our support for mentoring programs in Multnomah County and the impact of volunteers in the lives of youth in this community.

ADOPTED this 5th day of January, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jeff Cogen, County Chair

Deborah Kafoury,
Commissioner District 1

Loretta Smith,
Commissioner District 2

Judy Shiprack,
Commissioner District 3

Diane McKeel,
Commissioner District 4

SUBMITTED BY:

Diane McKeel, Commissioner - District 4