

**WHEREAS**, National Mentoring Month provides an opportunity to recognize and commend the efforts of mentoring programs and raise community awareness of the importance of mentoring; and

**WHEREAS**, the future of Mason County rests on the hopes and dreams of its children and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, mentors are caring and motivating individuals who are good listeners, offering support and encouragement, and providing a consistent role model; and

**WHEREAS**, young people greatly benefit from mentors who can encourage self-confidence and positive attitude, inspire them in their education endeavors, inform them of the importance of healthy relationships with their friends and families, and educate them on the perils of drug and alcohol abuse and delinquent behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, research has shown mentored youth are 52% less likely to skip a day of school, 46% less likely to start using drugs, and 27% less likely to start drinking and 53% more likely to attend college; and

**WHEREAS**, mentoring provides mentors the opportunity to learn more about themselves, improve their own values and morale, and get a fresh perspective on their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, there are various local mentoring programs that have made significant contributions to our community by offering outstanding services to youth in Mason County; and

**WHEREAS**, Mason County commends all the mentors of our community for their valuable contributions and for the services they provide our youth, as they encourage others to make a difference in the life of Mason County's youth;

**NOW, THEREFORE WE, the Board of Mason County Commissioners**, do hereby proclaim January 2009 as ***"National Mentoring Month."***

Adopted this sixteenth day of December, 2008.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Tim Sheldon  
Chair

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Lynda Ring Erickson  
Commissioner

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Ross Gallagher  
Commissioner