

Proclamation for 2012 National Mentoring Month

WHEREAS, the citizens of Eagar recognize that our success depends on helping every child succeed in school and reach their full potential in life, and realize that young people need a solid foundation of support that will help them become well-educated, confident, and productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, mentoring is a proven, effective strategy that helps children and young adults by matching them with a caring, responsible adult who can provide guidance and direction, and build their confidence; and

WHEREAS, research shows that youth involved in mentoring are 52 percent less likely to skip school, 46 percent less likely to start using drugs, and 27 percent less likely to start drinking; and

WHEREAS, youth mentoring programs such as those through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Arizona build and strengthen their programs using the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring*TM (EEP), the industry's best practices for mentoring that are based on mentoring policies, practitioner experiences and research; and

WHEREAS, mentors build character, encourage success, boost confidence, lift expectations, and expand the universe of a child, serving as friends, role models, teachers, and sources of stability and support during a critical time in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, research shows that mentoring has beneficial and long-term effects on youth by increasing their chances of high school graduation and college attendance and decreasing the likelihood of substance abuse and other risky behaviors, and

WHEREAS, mentoring strengthens our Town's economic and social well-being by helping young people fulfill their potential while helping maintain healthy families and promoting more vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, every day residents of Eagar are making a profound difference in the lives of our young people by serving as mentors, supported by many private and public sector organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Arizona, that offer mentoring opportunities for youth; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Eagar's children are in need of a caring adult mentor in their lives, and closing this mentoring gap will take more investment, partnerships, and volunteers ready to make a difference in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the importance of mentoring, recognize the dedicated individuals who serve mentors, and encourage more citizens to help build a brighter future for Eagar's youth through mentoring;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Holaway, Mayor of Eagar proclaim January 2012 as National Mentoring Month, and call upon the people of Eagar to recognize the importance of mentoring, to look for opportunities to serve as mentors in their communities, and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.