PROCLAMATION

OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, this year Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast, CASA of Humboldt and Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods, celebrate the 140 combined years of service to the youth in Humboldt County. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast recognizes that the future of Humboldt County rests on the success of its youth; and

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

WHEREAS, research shows that young people matched with a caring adult through a quality mentoring program are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college, 92 percent more likely to report participating regularly in extracurricular activities and sports, 78 percent more likely to volunteer and twice as likely to say they held a leadership position than those who did not have a mentor; and

WHEREAS, youth development experts agree that mentoring is critical to the social, emotional and cognitive development of youth, helping them navigate the path to adulthood more successfully; and

WHEREAS, our community has several community volunteers, teachers and many others who support the mentoring movement and work selflessly to improve children's odds for success; and

WHEREAS, the future of Humboldt County rests on the success of its children and youth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes **January 2025** as **NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH** and thanks all local heroes who participate in quality mentoring programs to equip our youth with the tools to lead healthy and productive lives. The Board also calls on residents to help close the gap between the availability of mentors and the number of children facing challenging circumstances who would love to spend time with a Big Brother, Big Sister, CASA Advocate or Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods Mentor. It takes little to be big for National Mentoring Month.

Date: January 7, 2025

Michelle Bushnell, Chair