

- WHEREAS:** the future of Michigan City rests on its children and their ability to identify and reach their fondest hopes and dreams; and
- WHEREAS:** mentors help youth achieve their full potential by offering valuable encouragement, motivation and hope by providing a consistent role model; and
- WHEREAS:** too many youths will face struggles with alcohol, drugs, gangs, teen pregnancy and educational failure; and
- WHEREAS:** although nearly 17.6 million young Americans need or want mentoring, only three million are in formal, high-quality mentoring relationships. 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
- WHEREAS:** relationships with caring mentors guide them toward making positive choices; and
- WHEREAS:** partnerships between businesses and educational institutions and mentoring programs have proven to be an effective way for our community to support our youth; and
- WHEREAS:** collaborative mentor programs that are supported by the entire community (i.e. Chambers of Commerce, law enforcement, service organizations, and the media) are more visible and, therefore, more successful; and
- WHEREAS:** hundreds of Michigan City youth are currently waiting for a mentor; and
- WHEREAS:** National Mentoring Month provides an opportunity to recognize and commend the efforts of these programs and raise community awareness of the importance of mentoring.

NOW THEREFORE, I, CHARLES E. OBERLIE, Mayor of the City of Michigan City do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2007, as:

MENTORING MONTH IN MICHIGAN CITY

and I call upon the citizens of the City of Michigan City to recognize the importance of mentoring, to look for opportunities to serve as mentors in our community, and to celebrate this month with appropriate activities and programs.

DATED THIS 1ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2007

Charles E. Oberlie, Mayor
City of Michigan City

ATTEST:

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk