

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, all young people have the potential to succeed in life and contribute to society but not all of them get the support they need to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, almost half of young people in the United States, or 17.6 million kids, live in situations that put them at risk of living up to their potential; and

**WHEREAS**, a child's relationship with a mentor is proven to be effective in combating youth violence, drug use, poor school performance, teen pregnancy and gang involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of caring adults offering support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and role modeling is proven to help young people fill their potential; and

**WHEREAS**, mentoring helps by improving a child's relationships, school motivation, and positive use of free time and helps youth better face daily challenges and gives new opportunities to consider; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that by spending just 1 hour of time each week with a mentor for a minimum of one year, a child will be more likely to graduate and less likely to become a teen parent, get in fights, use drugs, or become involved in the legal system; and

**WHEREAS**, National Mentoring Month is taking place in January 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership has formed and consists of a collaborative of 12 mentoring programs actively providing mentoring services in the City of Alexandria; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2008 as:

**"MENTORING AWARENESS MONTH"**

in the City of Alexandria and affirm the commitment of the City to the support of youth mentoring programs in the City of Alexandria.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2008.

**WILLIAM D. EUILLE      MAYOR**

On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk