



City of Grand Junction, State of Colorado

Proclamation

- Whereas,** over 3,000 youth and young adults in Colorado are living in shelters, staying with family or friends, or sleeping without a roof over their heads; and
- Whereas,** homeless, unaccompanied youth are at an increased risk for exacerbated health conditions, mental illness, substance abuse, assault, and human trafficking; and
- Whereas,** last year The House served over 265 homeless, unaccompanied youth, many of which demonstrated remarkable resilience by graduating from high school, attending college, gaining employment, running their own businesses, and working as managers at Graff Dairy; and
- Whereas,** addressing homelessness early has shown to decrease anxiety, depression and substance abuse by nearly 20 percent and through the House Street Outreach Program has decreased costs to local governments; and
- Whereas,** the City of Grand Junction recognizes the potential of these young people and has provided support through Community Development Block Grants to The House and staff cooperation with the homeless service provider community; and
- Whereas,** the House, in collaboration with Mind Springs Health and Rocky Mountain Health Plans, continues its commitment to end youth homelessness by establishing a 3,000 square foot, 34-unit housing and services development for youth at serious risk for long-term homelessness; and
- Whereas,** awareness of the challenges of youth homelessness and its causes must be heightened to ensure greater support for effective programs aimed at preventing homelessness and to help youth achieve futures of hope and promise.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Taggart, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim November 2019 as

"Homeless and Runaway Youth Awareness Month"

in the City of Grand Junction and urge all citizens to recognize and support the needs of homeless and runaway youth in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 1st day of November, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Taggart", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

