



Grand Junction

State of Colorado

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the future well being of our nation is dependent on the value we place on our young people, and we must provide opportunities for youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop into healthy and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, the young people with the least access to these essential opportunities and supports are those in runaway and homeless situations, and between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth runaway in a one year period. In 2009, the Grand Junction Police Department handled 230 runaway cases; and

WHEREAS, if all of us work together, we can prevent the situations that compel youth to run away from home, so we must empower families and communities to aid our nation's youth in protecting themselves, assuring them all the opportunities and supports necessary for their success, and challenge adults to act as mentors and role models for youth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Junction supports the efforts of the community and public organizations such as the Grand Junction Police Department, the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, and Mesa County Department of Human Services, who are working diligently to increase public awareness about, advocate on behalf of, and provide a positive and safe alternative to runaway and homeless youth and their families. I further call on the people of our community to show their support for youth in our community by shining a green light at their homes and businesses, so that all can be reminded that we value our young people.

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

"NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH"

in the City of Grand Junction and urge all people to develop personal relationships with young people who have run away or who are at high risk by teaching them skills that promote positive life choices, providing a safety net of trusted friends, adults and resources to them as they transition to adulthood.

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, 2010.

Mayor

