

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, everyday in Illinois, mentors help youth in communities across the State—in schools and in homes, on the field and in the library—face the challenges of growing into adulthood; and,

WHEREAS, there are few investments more important than those we make in the health and well-being of young people; and,

WHEREAS, research shows that young people matched with a caring adult through a quality mentoring program are 27% less likely to start drinking, 46% less likely to use illegal drugs, 52% less likely to skip school, and are more likely to have positive relationships with adults and to make positive plans for their future; and,

WHEREAS, more than 200 active mentoring organizations currently operate in Illinois, and thousands of children in our state already have the benefit of caring supportive volunteer mentors; and,

WHEREAS, 96% of existing mentors would recommend mentoring to others; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Mentoring Partnership (IMP), launched in 2012, is the unifying champion for quality youth mentoring in Illinois, providing resources, technical assistance, heightened public awareness and advocacy for the state's mentoring movement; and,

WHEREAS, the Serve Illinois Commission supports the mentoring work of over 700 AmeriCorps members each year, who are committed to improving the lives of youth in over 40 Illinois counties; and,

WHEREAS, less than 50,000 of Illinois' over 3 million children and youth are currently served in a mentoring program and many more of our children desperately need the support of a quality mentor; and,

WHEREAS, mentors can commit as little as one hour a week and still have a significant positive impact on the outcome of a child's life; and,

WHEREAS, January is recognized as National Mentoring Month, and Illinois is proud to step forward as a leader in reinforcing support for this cause across our great state, in an effort to close the gap in youth who do not have a trusted mentor in their lives; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim January 2014 as **MENTORING MONTH** in Illinois, and urge citizens throughout Illinois to find your place in the powerful movement to foster the growth of the next generation of Illinoisans by becoming a mentor. To find a mentoring opportunity or to learn more about how to recognize your volunteers, visit the Illinois Mentoring Partnership website at www.ilmentoring.org.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this EIGHTH *day of* JANUARY *, in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
FOURTEEN *, and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-SIXTH

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SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR