



GRANDFAMILY/KINSHIP CARE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2015

WHEREAS, This year during the month of September, Grandfamily/Kinship Care Month is observed, the Town of Camp Verde is proud to recognize the children and their grandparents and other relatives who raise them in kinship care and who ensure their safety, promote their well-being and establish a stable household for these young people to thrive, and

WHEREAS, nationally 2.7 million children are living with grandparents and other relatives in kinship care of which over 104,715 caregivers reside in Arizona, and

WHEREAS, relationships with family are crucial for children, it is our responsibility to promote and preserve kinship, sibling, and other familial connections for children in Arizona, and

WHEREAS, Arizonians join to honor famous kinship caregivers such as President George Washington, as well those grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural suburban households in every county of Arizona who 'famously' stop forward out of love and loyalty to care for relatives when the child's biological parents are no longer able to do so, and

WHEREAS, Arizonians join to honor famous youth who were raised in kinship care such as Maya Angelou, Sandra Day O'Conner, and Barack Obama as well as those children residing in urban, rural and suburban households in every county of Arizona who through the unconditional support of grandparents and other relatives, have successfully addressed the emotional trauma of losing their parents, and

WHEREAS, nationally Grandfamilies/Kinship Caregivers save tax payers more than 6.5 billion dollars a year, and

WHEREAS, one in eleven of all children will live within a kinship family sometime during their childhood, kinship care provides the best opportunity to retain the child's cultural heritage and community ties.

NOW THEREFORE, The Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde do hereby proclaim September 2015 to be Grandfamily/Kinship Care Month in the Town of Camp Verde.

Issued this 2nd day of September 2015


Charles German, Mayor

Attest:


Virginia Jones-Town Clerk





Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors

A support network for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren

July 31, 2015

Mayor Bob Burnside
473 S Main St, Suite 102
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Dear Mayor Burnside,

I'm a 73 year old grandfather raising my grandchild in Arizona. I'm also part of **Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors**, a growing support network for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. When times were tough, we stepped up to keep our families together and strong. **We are the reason our grandchildren are not in foster care, group homes, or other non-familial settings.** Keeping families together and strong is a basic American value that is shared no matter your race, your political party, or where you live. We are proud and dedicated to raising our grandchildren. Our mission is to support, mobilize, educate, and advocate for Arizona's grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

The first Sunday after Labor Day (September 13th this year) is National Grandparents Day. Throughout the month of September, the Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors are raising public and government awareness of the benefit Grandparents and other Kinship caregivers provide to the children they care for and to the state of Arizona by asking cities to proclaim September as Grandfamily/Kinship Care Month.

Would you be willing to declare September as Grandfamily/Kinship Care Month in the city of Camp Verde?

Surprise, AZ was the first city to agree to declare September as Grandfamily/Kinship Care Month. Since then, we have also received confirmation that Proclamations will also be presented in Tucson, Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Goodyear, Litchfield and Buckeye. I am writing today to ask that you consider doing the same for your city. I am attaching a copy of our proclamation to use as a sample, or use directly by simply editing the name of the Mayor and City.

We have a statewide press release planned for September 1, 2015, to announce the cities throughout Arizona who will be issuing this proclamation and reiterate the importance of supporting grandfamilies in our communities. Let me know if your city would like to be included in this release, and if we can count on you to issue a similar proclamation in your city. I can be reached at centralazga@gmail.com or by calling 602-456-0762.

Thank you,

John Jacob
Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors

Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors
c/o Children's Action Alliance
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Phoenix, AZ 85012