

## GRANDFAMILY/KINSHIP CARE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2016

**WHEREAS**, this year during the month of September, Grandfamily/Kinship Care Month is observed, Fountain Hills, Arizona 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**, Arizonans join to honor famous kinship caregivers such as President George Washington, as well those grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural and suburban households in every county of Arizona who "famously" step 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**, Arizonans join to honor famous youth who were raised in kinship care such as Maya Angelou, Sandra Day O'Connor, 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**, the public becomes increasingly aware of the challenges faced by children, grandparents, and other relative caregivers providing care in partnership with the education, legal, social services, mental health, justice and other systems to access services that can enable kinship youth to flourish in all facets of their life; and

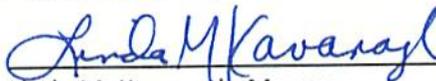
**WHEREAS**, nationally Grandfamilies/Kinship Caregivers save tax payers more than 6.5 billion dollars a year; and

**WHEREAS**, one in eleven of all children and one in five Black 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**, I, Linda M. Kavanagh, Mayor of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2016 as **GRANDFAMILY/KINSHIP CARE MONTH** in Fountain Hills.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the Town of Fountain Hills, Maricopa County, Arizona this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2016.



  
Linda M. Kavanagh, Mayor

Attest

  
Bevelyn J. Bender, Town Clerk