



**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH
November 2014**

WHEREAS, Youth and Family Services YMCA, believes the future well-being of our nation is dependent on the value we place on our young people; and

WHEREAS, nearly 2 million youth from every life circumstance are in a runaway and homeless situation each year. Their home environments are unsafe and unhealthy, resulting in limited access to the essential opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop into healthy productive adults; and

WHEREAS, the first step in preventing youth from making the decision to run away is gaining an understanding of the facts about runaway youth and dispelling the myths; and

WHEREAS, we must challenge adults to act as mentors and role models for youth, guiding them towards resources and safe, healthy and productive choices.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, HELENE SCHNEIDER, as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby proclaim **November 2014 as NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH** in support of increasing public awareness, and to provide positive and safe alternatives to runaway and homeless youth and their families.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 11th day of November 2014.

HELENE SCHNEIDER
Mayor