

**To Honor Friends of the Children – Colorado Springs  
During National Mentoring Month  
January 12, 2023**

- WHEREAS,** The President of the United States of America has proclaimed January 2023 as National Mentoring Month; and
- WHEREAS,** Friends of the Children, a national nonprofit that pairs children facing the greatest obstacles with a paid, professional mentor (called a Friend) for 12+ years, is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023; and
- WHEREAS,** The Colorado Springs chapter of Friends of the Children believes that every child in Colorado Springs deserves the opportunity to dream big and reach their goals; and
- WHEREAS,** In partnership with El Paso County’s Department of Human Services, local school districts, and multiple community organizations, Friends of the Children has enrolled children aged 4-6—and by extension their families—who face the greatest challenges and are at risk of entry or re-entry into the foster care system; and
- WHEREAS,** The program focuses on both front-end prevention and intervention to support safety and stability for children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** Each child selected is paired with a Friend whose full-time job is to spend four hours a week with each child at school, at home and in the community; and
- WHEREAS,** Friends of the Children is incredibly grateful to local philanthropic and business leaders for coming together and recognizing that Colorado Springs children and families who have experienced significant trauma need a consistent, caring adult; and
- WHEREAS,** A third-party evaluation of Friends of the Children program graduates showed that: 92% of graduates go on to enroll in post-secondary education, serve our country or enter the workforce; 83% of youth obtain a high school diploma or GED; 93% remain free from juvenile justice system involvement; and 98% wait to parent until after their teen years.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I Mayor John Suthers, of Colorado Springs, do hereby express my great appreciation to Friends of the Children for impacting generational change by empowering youth in Colorado Springs who are facing the greatest obstacles through their relationships with professional mentors.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the  
Great Seal of the City of Colorado Springs to be affixed this 12th day of  
January, 2023