

PROCLAMATION

OF

OCTOBER AS YOUNG ADOLESCENT MONTH

- WHEREAS, the period of early adolescence--ages 10-15--is a distinct, developmental period between childhood and full adolescence; and
- WHEREAS, the importance of this period has been little understood or recognized; and
- WHEREAS, youth between the ages of 10 and 15 undergo more extensive physical, mental, social, moral and emotional changes, with the possible exception of infancy, than at any other time of life; and
- WHEREAS, the attitudes and values young adolescents develop during these formative years largely determine their later behavior; and
- WHEREAS, parents continue as primary models and guides and adults in the community play an important role in supporting the development of youth, even as young adolescents give increased attention to the peer group; and
- WHEREAS, much valuable information and research about this important age group now exists and should be circulated, including the fact that success in 9th grade is a primary indicator of whether or not a student will graduate from high school; and
- WHEREAS, United Way's Middle School Success initiative, in partnership with many nonprofits, schools, out-of-school care professionals, businesses and individuals, works to improve opportunities for quality out-of-school time activities for adolescents through after school and summer programs, helping providers improve program quality, providing professional training and much more; and
- WHEREAS, United Way's Middle School Success initiative informs the community about the importance of this critical time in a child's life through its annual awareness campaign, sharing with the public how successful completion of high school is a determinant of a greater opportunity for a better life in the areas of education, income and health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That October be declared:

Young Adolescent Month

in Buncombe County.

2. That all Buncombe County residents join the celebration by increasing their knowledge about these critical years and supporting the healthy development of young adolescents.
3. That this proclamation be effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this the 16th day of October, 2012.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN