

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION**

**FRIENDSHIP CENTER  
20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, The concept of Friendship Center was started in 1989 by Judy Calhoun, a nurse, and Velma Ellison, Executive Director of the Homer Senior Citizens, Inc. as a means to allow Mark Goldseth, who was severely injured in a car accident, a place for respite care during daytime hours; and

WHEREAS, The feasibility of a center and how it would fit in the community was researched and grants were applied for and attained, a location was rented on Ocean Drive, and on July 20, 1990 the doors to Friendship Center were opened with Judy Calhoun and June Ward as the original staff; and

WHEREAS, Millie Martin's mother, Oma, was one of the first clients, along with Mark Goldseth, Emmitt Trimble, Sr., Betty Ladd, and others that needed social interaction; and

WHEREAS, The Friendship Center enabled family members to have a place for their loved ones to go during the day, allowing the families respite and the loved ones a safe and loving atmosphere meeting their social, physical, emotional, intellectual, nutritional, and spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, Lunches were delivered from the Senior Center and snacks were provided twice daily ranging from ice cream from Brother Asaiah, peanut butter cookies or chocolate cake from Marge Bray, to healthy snacks concocted by the staff; and

WHEREAS, A homey and loving atmosphere permeated the two rooms within the Friendship Center; it was surprising just how many people would fit in those two rooms at one time; and

WHEREAS, In December 1993 a fire displaced the Friendship Center to a temporary stay at the Kachemak City Center and in 1994 the Friendship Center moved into their present location at the Senior Center Complex; and

WHEREAS, The Friendship Center grew with new clients, added activities, holiday celebrations, live entertainment by members of the community, a chance to be creative and useful no matter what their age or degree of disability, and a chance to laugh and "CELEBRATE THE DAY"; and

WHEREAS, Pat Doyle assisted at Friendship Center in the early days and has treasured memories of the clients and how the Friendship Center progressed from just a few clients to its present 14 – 17 clients per day, with two vans equipped with courteous and helpful drivers, enabling seniors the opportunity to participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, Today the staff has grown to five: Gay Pendleton, Manager; Mary Jo Gates, Assistant Manager; Linda Gunn, Activity Coordinator, Nicole White, Program Aide, and Pat Doyle takes care of the 5 – 8 volunteers, all feeling blessed to be surrounded by this special population and the wisdom they share.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES C. HORNADAY, Mayor of the City of Homer, do hereby proclaim July 20, 2010 as:

**FRIENDSHIP CENTER, 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

in the City of Homer, Alaska.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the official seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010.

CITY OF HOMER

ATTEST:

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JAMES C. HORNADAY, MAYOR

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JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK