

# Alachua County Florida

## A Proclamation

**Declaring November as  
"Youth HOPE Month"  
in Alachua County, Florida**

**Whereas,** Youth HOPE Month began in 2002 and is spearheaded each year by the National Runaway Safeline (NRS), the federally designated national communication system for runaway and homeless youth; and

**Whereas,** The prevalence of runaway and homelessness among youth is staggering, with studies suggesting that every year, 4.2 million people ages 13-25 endure some form of homelessness; and

**Whereas,** Runaway youth are often expelled from their home; have experienced abuse and trauma; are involved in the foster care system; are too poor to secure their own basic needs; and may be ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources; and

**Whereas,** Children and youth who run away are at increased danger for falling into high-risk situations, including human trafficking; and

**Whereas** Effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting youth and their families in providing safe and stable homes, succeed because of partnerships created among families, youth-based advocacy organizations, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses; and

**Whereas,** The National Runaway Safeline is honoring November as Youth HOPE Month to raise awareness of the issues facing runaway and homeless youth and educate the public about solutions and the role, they can play in ending youth homelessness; and

**Whereas,** We urge all citizens to support the effort to increase public awareness and provide positive and safe alternatives to runaway and homeless youth and their families.

**Now, therefore,** through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of the Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim November, as "Youth HOPE Month" in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut IV., Chair

ATTEST:

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J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq.