



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Heidi Hall and Supervisor Lisa Swarthout

SUBJECT: Certificate of Recognition celebrating Bright Futures for Youth for their 30 years of outstanding dedication and commitment to the needs of Nevada County youth beginning with The Friendship Club program

RECOMMENDATION: Present the Certificate of Recognition.

FUNDING: None

BACKGROUND: Bright Futures for Youth is a community-focused nonprofit organization committed to addressing the ever-changing needs of youth, from sixth-graders to those in their mid-20s in Nevada County. Bright Futures for Youth was formed in the summer of 2020 through the merger of two grassroots organizations: The Friendship Club and NEO (New Events and Opportunities), which together, have over 30 years of experience serving youth in Nevada County. In 1995, The Friendship Club summer pilot program was launched by Mary Collier, Jennifer Singer, and Amanda Chavez with 15 girls in a classroom at Deer Creek School. Today, The Friendship Club has grown significantly to serve 100 girls in sixth- to twelfth-grade cohorts, providing academic, emotional and social support after school, summer camps, and year-round opportunities to build friendships. Through the programming, participants learn life skills and build confidence for their future. The Friendship Club also ensures basic needs, such as access to health care and healthy meals, are available. Since its inception, it has supported nearly 1,000 girls and young women through year-long programs focused on academics, life skills, and wellness.

The Friendship Club served as the foundation for what has become Bright Futures for Youth, which has expanded to meet the needs of several hundred children and young adults every month – from boys and girls in the NEO Youth Center, to the SAFE program for youth experiencing homelessness. The NEO program provides a safe, welcoming space for sixth- to twelfth-grade youth to connect with peers, explore

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interests, and develop new skills through a wide range of activities like art, music, sports, and games. It's a place where young people can relax, be themselves, and have fun in a supportive environment after school. Bright Futures for Youth launched the SAFE (Stability, Access, Foundation, Empowerment) program in 2019 to address the growing crisis of youth homelessness in Nevada County, offering vital support such as food, clothing, housing, education, health services, and life-skills training to help young people live independently.

Drawing on three decades of experience, Bright Futures for Youth continues to expand its no-cost, life-changing programs to meet the growing and diverse needs of young people in the community. Congratulations to Bright Futures for Youth for 30 years of serving Nevada County through its youth services.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Heidi Hall
District 1

Supervisor Lisa Swarthout
District 3