



City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation's (Foundation) mission is to raise funds through community donations and expand the positive impact of the Foundation on the island; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1989, the Foundation has served as a connecting force, inspiring the community to continued service and support by mobilizing residents to help fund essential programs for family counseling, school counselors, and senior services; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation contributed over \$600,000 to support Youth and Family Services (YFS) programs last year, which is a significant increase over prior years; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation pledged \$712,400 in addition to their \$300,000 annual contribution to bridge the gap in the YFS budget resulting from the loss of revenues in the 2021-2022 biennium due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the Foundation joined forces with the City Council and the staff to form a short-term "YFS Working Group" to discuss short-term and long-term financial strategies to sustain YFS services; and

WHEREAS, in addition to financial contributions, the Foundation also provides pass-through funds to the Food Pantry as well as the Emergency Assistance and Holiday Programs, and

WHEREAS, many individuals and families struggled under the weight of business closures, job loss, isolation, managing remote learning and remote work, and the need for YFS services increased dramatically including a 77% increase in visits to the Food Pantry and 21 new households who had not previously requested YFS assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic recovery efforts from a mental health and emergency assistance perspective will require months, if not years, of additional community support by Mercer Island Youth and Family Services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Benson Wong, do hereby proclaim February 2, 2021 as

MIYFS FOUNDATION DAY

in Mercer Island and I encourage all residents to join me in thanking the MIYFS Foundation for three decades of dedicated service to the community of Mercer Island.

APPROVED, this 2nd day of February 2021.

Benson Wong, Mayor

