

Introduced by: Elam, Mayor
Date: 10/08/24
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
COMMENDING RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MATT BROWN, FOUNDER OF OPERATION CHILDREN FIRST FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO SUPPORTING UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN ON THE KENAI PENINSULA

- WHEREAS,** Matt Brown, founder of Operation Children First, has demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to supporting underprivileged children on the Kenai Peninsula by providing them with clothes, food, and gifts, particularly during the holiday seasons; and
- WHEREAS,** Operation Children First, under Matt Brown's leadership, has grown significantly from helping 30 individuals in its first year to almost 2,000 children and families annually, reflecting his profound impact on the community; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt Brown has successfully partnered with Nikiski Hardware and Supply each Christmas to pass out Christmas gifts to hundreds of children, ensuring that many receive the joy of the holiday season; and
- WHEREAS,** Operation Children First has established vital programs such as providing new clothes to school children each year, ensuring that they have the appropriate attire to focus on their education; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt Brown's organization ensures that children who cannot afford new bikes receive them, and those who cannot afford school sports fees or school supplies get them paid for, thus supporting their overall well-being and academic success; and
- WHEREAS,** Operation Children First provides food for families and presents for children year-round, demonstrating a continuous commitment to meeting the needs of the community; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt Brown and his organization teach kids how to snowmachine race and golf, offering recreational opportunities that contribute to their physical and mental development; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt Brown has successfully partnered with various organizations, including Marathon Petroleum's Kenai refinery, whose employees selected Operation Children First to receive proceeds from their charity auction, resulting in over \$21,000 in donations, which greatly enhanced the nonprofit's ability to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, Matt Brown and his family have actively organized and participated in numerous fundraising events, such as the junior hockey game fundraiser, further supporting the nonprofit's mission to leave no child behind; and

WHEREAS, Operation Children First has established a year-round presence in the community, with initiatives such as setting up clothing stores in schools to ensure students have access to necessary clothing items, thereby allowing them to focus on their education; and

WHEREAS, Matt Brown's efforts have fostered a spirit of volunteerism and community support, involving his own family in the charitable work and instilling values of gratitude and giving in his children; and

WHEREAS, Matt Brown's vision and leadership have not only provided immediate relief to those in need but have also inspired a broader movement of compassion and community involvement on the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, Operation Children First's ambitious goals for the future, including raising \$100,000 to support its expanding initiatives, exemplify the ongoing commitment to enhancing the lives of underprivileged children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Matt Brown's dedication and the support of numerous community members and donors have created a significant positive impact, making a difference in the lives of many children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough hereby affirms and commends Matt Brown for his outstanding contributions through Operation Children First, acknowledging his unwavering commitment to supporting underprivileged children and fostering a sense of community and generosity.

SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution will be presented to Matt Brown.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson
No: None
Absent: None