

094186624

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 846

Offered February 4, 2009

Commending St. Joseph's Villa on its 175th anniversary of service to the Commonwealth.

Patron—McClellan

WHEREAS, in 1834 Father Timothy O'Brien founded St. Joseph's Villa in a small church building on the corner of Fourth and Marshall Streets in Richmond to help children and poor, homeless, unloved, and unwanted persons; and

WHEREAS, he was assisted in his noble quest by four nuns from the Sisters of Charity, who provided the care and education of poor and orphaned girls, and later established a day school for students who could afford to pay for such services; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph's Villa soon outgrew its first location, and in 1931 a new and expanded facility in Henrico County was provided through the benevolence of Major James H. Dooley of Maymont, a longtime board member, who was concerned about the needs of boys, orphans, and disabled children; and

WHEREAS, for over a century, the new facility has enabled the staff to serve thousands of Virginia children and their families, and St. Joseph's Villa has become a national model for orphanages and an innovator in creating a different type of care facility to meet the needs of children; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 the Sisters of Charity delegated the administration of St. Joseph's Villa to trained professionals, and several innovative and effective programs were developed for disabled children and those who are abused, neglected, or homeless; and

WHEREAS, programs and services currently offered include an Emergency Shelter for children placed by local departments of social services' protective services units, one of only a few programs accepting siblings and the Dooley School, Day Treatment Services, Villa's Day Support Services, and Respite program, which all provide care and services to disabled children; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis Children's Center, which operates a full-day and after-school child development center, and the Flagler Home, which is designed to assist families in the community, provide services to children and adults in difficult circumstances; the Lewis Children's Center and the Flagler Home offer parenting, financial literacy, and job skills counseling; and

WHEREAS, disabled adults can also find assistance, housing, and care at the Villa's Hollybrook Apartments; and

WHEREAS, for over 150 years, St. Joseph's Villa has been a priceless asset to the community and an exemplary corporate citizen, admirably serving children, families, and adults in need throughout the Richmond metropolitan area as well as other localities across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph's Villa has rendered unparalleled service and considerable contributions to support and aid children and families in need and disabled adults of the Commonwealth; it is fitting and appropriate to commend and recognize its outstanding service to the Commonwealth on the occasion of its 175th anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend St. Joseph's Villa on its 175th anniversary of service to the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Kathleen Burke Barrett, Chief Executive Officer, requesting that she further disseminate copies of this resolution to her constituents in order that they may be apprised of the General Assembly's esteem and respect for the organization's contributions and service for 175 years to the people of the Richmond metropolitan area and the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

HJ846