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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 361

Offered February 24, 2014

*Commending United Community Ministries.*

Patrons—Sickles, Brink, Bulova, Carr, Filler-Corn, Herring, Keam, Kory, Krupicka, Lopez, Simon, Spruill, Surovell and Watts

WHEREAS, United Community Ministries celebrates 45 years of providing a full range of social services to low-income residents of Fairfax County in 2014; and

WHEREAS, United Community Ministries (UCM), which is a private, nonprofit social services agency, began in 1969 when religious and civic leaders joined forces to help struggling and low-income individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, in its more than four decades of existence as a community-based organization, UCM has grown tremendously as the growth in Fairfax County has increased and offers a wide array of services to people living in the densely populated southeast section of the county; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning, UCM has provided food and financial assistance; today it also works to meet many other essential needs, including providing emergency assistance, housing, employment counseling, computer literacy, and English as a second language classes; and

WHEREAS, thousands of families have benefitted from the caring work of UCM; people have turned to the group for help in keeping their homes, receiving an education, obtaining a job, and moving toward self-sufficiency and stable living situations; and

WHEREAS, other key components of UCM's work include a healthy families' initiative, an early learning center for preschoolers, youth services, an extensive network to help those who are fleeing domestic abuse situations, and neighborhood community-building efforts; and

WHEREAS, the many generous donors to UCM include individuals, businesses, faith communities, and governments; in 2013 alone, 600 volunteers worked together with professional staff to offer help and a hand up to people in need; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with other nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government bodies, UCM has played a central role in facilitating a full spectrum of services to low-income Virginians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend United Community Ministries for its 45 years of serving the needs of low-income residents of Fairfax County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Board of Directors of United Community Ministries as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for the vital service that the organization performs for the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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