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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 217

Offered February 10, 2020

Commending the Ecumenical Community Helping Others.

Patrons—Delaney, Cole, M.L., Hope and Reid; Senators: Bell, Boysko and Howell

WHEREAS, the Ecumenical Community Helping Others, better known as ECHO, a nonprofit organization providing emergency relief to families in the Springfield and Burke areas of Fairfax County, was recognized as the Volunteer Program of the Year at the 2019 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards; and

WHEREAS, for the last 50 years, ECHO has been a lifeline for the community, providing financial assistance, food, and human services referrals to low-income families and families struggling with short-term emergencies; and

WHEREAS, each year, ECHO donates clothing, household wares, and school supplies to families in need; in 2018 alone, the organization supported approximately 1,500 families by distributing 192,615 pounds of food, 4,602 bags of clothing and household goods, and \$55,575 worth of school supplies; and

WHEREAS, the ECHO Christmas Shop supplied 605 children with new toys, games, and clothing over the 2018 holidays, bringing joy to many families during this special time of year; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1969, ECHO has been entirely managed and operated by volunteers from local congregations, with only one percent of the organization's revenues going toward administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, today, the work of nearly 400 volunteers serving as counselors, administrative assistants, facility managers, clothing chairpersons, community relations liaisons, food drive chairpersons, and more allows ECHO to have an outsized impact in its service area; and

WHEREAS, ECHO and its volunteers have assured a greater quality of life for countless individuals by providing safety and security to families going through difficult times, embodying the community spirit that makes Fairfax County and the Commonwealth a great place to live, work, and raise a family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Ecumenical Community Helping Others, an organization dedicated to supporting the families of Burke and Springfield in greatest need, for being distinguished as the Volunteer Program of the Year at the 2019 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Ecumenical Community Helping Others as an expression of the General Assembly's profound respect and admiration for their contributions to Fairfax County and the Commonwealth.