

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 354

*Commending the Sacred Heart Center.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 2, 2020  
Agreed to by the Senate, March 4, 2020

WHEREAS, the Sacred Heart Center, a service organization supported by the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Richmond and other local partners, celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2020; and

WHEREAS, opened in 1990 by the Maryland Province Jesuits and the Catholic Diocese of Richmond in a building that formerly housed the Sacred Heart School, the Sacred Heart Center quickly became a valuable community institution through its innovative programs for children and adults; and

WHEREAS, responding to changing demographics in the neighborhood and the increasing number of Spanish speakers in the congregation at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Sacred Heart Center focused its efforts to support the needs of this growing community; and

WHEREAS, through numerous adult education and support programs, the Sacred Heart Center helps individuals of all ages achieve their goals, whether it be to improve literacy, earn a General Educational Development degree, or obtain citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Sacred Heart Center has programs to help children through every stage of their educational maturation, from the Pasitos Exitosos program for preschool-age children to the Cielito Lindo program for summer enrichment, to the College and Career Bound program for high school students exploring higher education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2017 alone, the Sacred Heart Center enrolled more than 600 students in core educational programs while serving thousands more through partnerships providing medical, consular, and tax preparation services; food assistance; and referrals for human services; and

WHEREAS, creating synergy through collaborations with partner organizations in the area, the Sacred Heart Center is continually looking to extend its outreach and enhance the positive impact it has upon the community; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Sacred Heart Center over the years have been made possible by its volunteers, who are essential to every facet of the organization's operations and its programs; and

WHEREAS, by offering a space that is welcoming and accepting of all people, the Sacred Heart Center fosters community, celebrates the dignity of each individual, and contributes to a more just and peaceful world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Sacred Heart Center, a Catholic charitable organization serving the Richmond Latino community, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Shay W. Auerbach, S.J., president of the Sacred Heart Center, as an expression of the General Assembly's profound respect and admiration for the organization's efforts and best wishes for its continued success.

ENROLLED

HJ354ER