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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 390

Offered March 7, 2022

Commending the Avalon Center.

Patrons—Mullin; Senator: Mason

WHEREAS, the Avalon Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and abuse that has served the Greater Williamsburg and Middle Peninsula communities for many years, recently established its Next Step program for the benefit of individuals in need of transitional housing; and

WHEREAS, the Avalon Center attends to more than 1,500 men, women, and children annually who are survivors of domestic violence or abuse, offering shelter, education, and other tools to empower them to achieve independence and lead healthy, fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, the Avalon Center develops its programs and services with consideration for the fact that the circumstances surrounding domestic violence and abuse are different in each instance, taking steps to ensure that each individual or family they serve is cared for according to their needs; and

WHEREAS, the Avalon Center recently received a three-year grant totaling \$475,000 from the Office of Violence Against Women in the United States Department of Justice to expand its transitional housing services program Next Step, which is designed to provide individuals and families with places of refuge and opportunities to reset their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Avalon Center's Next Step program grant will support survivors in Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Poquoson, New Kent, West Point, Charles City, and throughout the Middle Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Virginia Career Works, the Avalon Center coordinates job training, legal advocacy, counseling, and transportation to help survivors develop greater self-sufficiency and break the cycle of violence and abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Avalon Center maintains a confidential hotline 24 hours a day so that individuals can reach out if they are in danger or otherwise in need of resources or assistance; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Avalon Center are the result of the unflagging commitments of its leaders and staff and the generous support of various public and private entities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Avalon Center for its efforts to end domestic violence and abuse in the Greater Williamsburg area and the Middle Peninsula on the occasion of the expansion of its Next Step transitional housing program; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Avalon Center as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's mission and its contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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