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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 644

Offered February 9, 2023

Commending the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank.

Patrons—Scott, P.A. and Orrock; Senator: Reeves

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank served more than 30,000 individuals through regular programs and seasonal food drives and special events, providing enough food for more than five million meals; and

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank serves the Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford, as well as the City of Fredericksburg and the community of Locust Grove, and is the leading charitable food distribution organization in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank is a member of the Feeding America network and works with more than 150 community partners to extend its reach throughout the community; the organization has fulfilled its mission of uniting the Central Rappahannock Region in its commitment to fight hunger through generous donations from individuals, businesses, foundations, and grants, and the hard work and dedication of countless volunteers; and

WHEREAS, each year, the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank rescues more than 1,600 tons of safe, surplus food from going to waste so that it can instead help nourish those struggling with hunger; retail grocers, farmers, producers, distributors, and foodservice operators donate food that is not profitable to sell, close-dated, overstock, seasonal, or cosmetically damaged; and

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank offers specific programs for children and seniors, assists in the enrollment of those eligible for benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and operates direct distribution activities through its OrderAhead Program, Mobile Pantry, and drive-through distributions; and

WHEREAS, during the holiday season alone, the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank distributes tens of thousands of pounds of food and works diligently to provide hope and support to local families through its Turkeys and Toys event, which provides hundreds of Thanksgiving turkeys and gifts for children; and

WHEREAS, during the 2022 holiday season, the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank met its end-of-year fundraising goal, allowing the organization to provide more than 300,000 meals in the holiday months; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank for its achievements in support of the community in 2022; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's commitment to ending hunger in the Fredericksburg region.

INTRODUCED

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