

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 722

Commending the Haven Family Center of Norfolk.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 23, 1995
Agreed to by the Senate, February 24, 1995

WHEREAS, the problems of the homeless, especially homeless families, continue to plague the cities and towns of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in operation since 1991, a group originally from the Ocean View section of Norfolk has developed a range of innovative, effective, and cost-efficient programs to deal with the problems of homeless families; and

WHEREAS, the Haven Family Center opened its first building, a renovated HUD-owned boarding house, in 1991, and thanks to the tireless efforts of its founders, the Center won an architectural excellence award and the Norfolk Mayor's Award; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to improving the lives of its clients, the Haven Family Center has developed and implemented several innovative programs to help homeless families with immediate emergency assistance, followed by an extended program to provide extra time to allow families to regain their independence; and

WHEREAS, the Haven Family Center designs programs to achieve a permanent solution to the problems of homeless families — programs that transfer the responsibility from the welfare system back to the individual family — and then offers the support needed by families to cope with this responsibility; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Crisis Shelter and Extended Shelter programs, the Haven Family Center offers a Transitional Housing program, a Permanent Housing program, and Project P.I.E., an employment program to help families achieve self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, among its goals for the 1996 fiscal year, the Haven Family Center plans to provide Crisis Shelter for 83 families, Extended Shelter for 36 families, and such additional services as job search and employment assistance, educational assistance, and apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, by focusing on permanent solutions to the problems of the homeless, the Haven Family Center provides both the vitally necessary emergency assistance to families in need and the long-term help so important to the rebuilding of strong, independent, productive families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Haven Family Center of Norfolk for its extraordinarily creative and effective efforts to help homeless families; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Elizabeth Brickhouse, executive director, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and appreciation for the exemplary work of the Haven Family Center.

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