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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 435

Offered March 3, 2016

Commending Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Inc.

Patrons—Krizek and Sickles; Senators: Black, Ebbin and Surovell

WHEREAS, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Inc., a family assistance organization in Fairfax County which helps people in need secure housing and work toward self-sufficiency, acquired its 50th housing unit in December 2015; and

WHEREAS, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Inc. (GSH), started in 1974 as an outreach program of Good Shepherd Catholic Church when parishioners joined together to help a family in need; the organization grew and evolved into a professionally staffed agency working to reduce homelessness and enable people and families to attain self-sufficiency through an array of services; and

WHEREAS, the mission of GSH is to transform lives by providing permanent, affordable housing, emergency financial services, budget counseling, and case management to working-class individuals and families in Fairfax County; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the 50th house by GSH marks a milestone for the charitable organization and is the nonprofit's first step toward significantly increasing the number of quality affordable housing units in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County; and

WHEREAS, GSH serves the historic U.S. Route 1 corridor of Fairfax County and has successfully housed thousands of families; the average stay in GSH housing is 26 months, and the organization has earned many accolades for its work, including being honored as one of the best nonprofits by the 2014 - 2015 Greater Washington Catalogue for Philanthropy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Inc., of Fairfax County for acquiring its 50th housing unit in 2015; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to David Levine, president and chief executive officer of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for the organization's vital work to provide permanent housing and support services to individuals and families in need in Fairfax County.

INTRODUCED

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