

2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 234

Offered March 5, 2018

Commending Community Lodgings.

Patrons—Ebbin and Saslaw

WHEREAS, Community Lodgings, a nonprofit organization that has provided assistance and advocacy for numerous at-risk families in the Alexandria community, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Community Lodgings was founded in 1987 by eight Episcopal churches; since then, it has helped families move from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency through programs that provide transitional housing, affordable housing, and youth education; and

WHEREAS, Community Lodgings provides affordable housing to 38 disadvantaged families at below market rent and transitional housing for six homeless families; clients are also given a variety of case management and support services to facilitate residential stability, increased skills or income, and greater self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Community Lodgings uses a holistic approach to overcoming homelessness that includes quality afterschool care to help children succeed socially and academically; along with providing nutritious meals, the organization's dedicated volunteers give each child in the program an average of 350 hours of academic support and mentoring each year; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Community Lodgings partners with different city organizations and nonprofits to provide workshops for students on topics such as nutrition, writing, conflict resolution, and boundary-setting; and

WHEREAS, through its educational programs, Community Lodgings looks to improve outcomes for Alexandria families at risk of homelessness, gang involvement, substance abuse, and emotional, physical, and sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, Community Lodgings has received numerous recognitions for its work, including being called "one of the best small charities in the Greater Washington region" by the *Catalogue for Philanthropy*; and

WHEREAS, through its community programs and the tireless efforts of its volunteers, Community Lodgings has improved the quality of life for numerous Alexandria residents and made progress toward its goal of creating a world where all families have access to housing, education, and the resources to achieve and sustain independence and productivity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Community Lodgings for its service to the community on the occasion of its 30th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Community Lodgings as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its impressive accomplishments and best wishes for continued success.

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