

2024 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 296

Commending Rustic Love.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 6, 2024

WHEREAS, Rustic Love, a local fundraiser-turned-nonprofit organization in Vienna, has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to organizations addressing food insecurity in the region since 2020; and

WHEREAS, Rustic Love was established by Vienna resident Michelle Connors as a backyard project using scrap wood to make heart emblem signs for a fundraiser to support food-insecure families; and

WHEREAS, within three months, more families joined Rustic Love, and the original signs were completed with the help of nine local children in fifth through 10th grade; and

WHEREAS, since that time, Scouting groups, youth athletics teams, school clubs, and other individuals and families have participated in waves of sign-making projects for Rustic Love; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Rustic Love has completed more than 5,000 wooden signs and donated more than \$450,000 in proceeds to at least 17 different food pantries and other organizations that help food-insecure members of the communities; and

WHEREAS, Rustic Love hosts pop-up sales and has cultivated partnerships with businesses like Ben and Jerry's, Vienna Vintner, Caboose Brewing Company, Achikian Goldsmiths, the Vienna Arts Society, and the Freeman Store and Museum to expand its community engagement; and

WHEREAS, by creating unique volunteer opportunities, Rustic Love has enhanced local life in Vienna while supporting people in need; the organization has fulfilled its mission through the leadership of its board of directors and the hard work and generosity of countless donors and volunteers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Rustic Love hereby be commended for its outstanding support for local organizations addressing food insecurity in Northern Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Michelle Connors, founder and executive director of Rustic Love, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's commitment to philanthropy and contributions to the community.

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