

2013-J4234

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Syracuse Habitat for Humanity

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Syracuse Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity has been making a difference in the Central New York community; and

WHEREAS, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit ecumenical agency whose mission is to eliminate substandard housing in the world; this worthy organization works in partnership with people from all walks of life to create decent housing and build strong communities; and

WHEREAS, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity was incorporated in 1984, and completed its first house in 1986; with more than 60 new homes constructed since its founding, the organization has played an important role in making home ownership accessible to working families in need; and

WHEREAS, Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity homes are sold to partner families at no profit and are financed with no interest, 30 year loans; homeowners invest 300 volunteer "sweat equity hours" in labor, as well as provide a \$1,000.00 down payment; and

WHEREAS, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity fosters leadership, education

and economic self-sufficiency in their homeowners, of which 97% are minorities and 80% are single mothers; 90% of the organization's homeowner applicants are women; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity has contributed substantially to the economic vitality of the region; the homes: improve property values and generate property tax revenues; support local businesses through the purchase of materials and the use of licensed contractors; through the extra disposable income that homes provide their owner, money is also redistributed throughout the local economy; and

WHEREAS, In 2000 Syracuse Habitat for Humanity made a commitment to the City of Syracuse Near Westside neighborhood and has since built 32 homes there, restoring the quality of life for that community, and breaking the cycle of poverty for the homeowners; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively carrying out its mission, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity has demonstrated the value of investing in New York State's neighborhoods and citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Syracuse Habitat for Humanity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Syracuse Habitat for Humanity.