

## 2013-J4380

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of HeartShare Human Services of New York on March 26, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 100th Anniversary of HeartShare Human Services of New York which was celebrated at its Spring Gala and Auction at the New York Marriot Marquis, Manhattan, Wednesday, March 26, 2014; and

WHEREAS, In 1914, HeartShare of New York, then known as Catholic Guardian Society of Brooklyn and Queens, first opened its doors to teenagers making the difficult transition from orphanages and institutions to life on their own; its members worked diligently to help former orphanage residents find jobs and housing at a time when neither the law nor society provided any assistance or protection; and

WHEREAS, As many such institutions were closing in the 1960s, HeartShare Human Services adapted its approach and services offered in response to these changes; it began certifying a network of individual New York homes appropriate for each child needing foster care and/or adoption services; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed program opened its first Family Service Center in the 1970s to counsel and assist families in crisis, keeping them united; in addition, they responded to the plight of children worldwide by establishing a Refugee Assistance Program for unaccompanied immigrant minors from Vietnam, Cambodia and Haiti; and

WHEREAS, HeartShare Human Services furthered its commitment to its community by significantly expanding its services for those with developmental disabilities; the organization opened its first group home for young men in 1977, followed by its initial First Step Early Childhood Program for children ages two through five years; three years later it began offering Respite/Recreation programs for children and adults; and in 1988, it opened its first adult day treatment center, as well as its first two supported apartments for those with higher functioning abilities; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with its mission to serve and in response to the growing AIDS epidemic, HeartShare Human Services initiated its Scattered Site Housing Program and Case Management Programs to help people with HIV/AIDS, in 1993; and

WHEREAS, That same year, this esteemed nonprofit began operating the Beacon Program in Coney Island, which offers a safe and supervised environment for after-school programs, along with adult services for the community; it also formed a partnership with National Grid (then Brooklyn Union Gas) to administer the Neighborhood Heating Fund that provides energy assistance to low-income households in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, Upon entering the 21st Century, HeartShare Wellness, Ltd., an affiliate program of HeartShare, opened in downtown Brooklyn to provide holistic diagnostic, medical and well being health services for children and adults with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In order to meet the increasing need for services for children and adults on the autism spectrum, The HeartShare School for children ages 5-21 was opened in 2007, the first private school-age program of its kind in Brooklyn; in addition, HeartShare Human Services opened

its Serving People with Autism Overnight Respite Program, an adult group home, two residences for children and a second Partnering with Autistic CiTizens adult day program; and

WHEREAS, Today, almost 29,000 children, adults and families rely on HeartShare Human Services; a true cornerstone of the community; it stands ready to continue its vital efforts of enhancing people's lives for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of a century, HeartShare Human Services has helped New Yorkers expand their opportunities and reach their fullest potential; its network of quality service providers continues to embody its mission to provide nurturing support, with dignity and respect, to children, adults and families; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of HeartShare Human Services of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to HeartShare Human Services of New York.