

## 2015-K1164

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 30th Anniversary of The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievement of those facilities and organizations which substantially contribute to the health, comfort and well-being of the people of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this Legislative Body wishes to commend the efforts of organizations and facilities which provide much needed and essential support services for the families of critically ill children, and serve to enhance the quality of life for those children and their families; 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 The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island to be feted at its Anniversary Gala on Thursday, September 29, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the year, this vital nonprofit organization will celebrate its 30th Anniversary by sharing heartwarming stories of the families it has served since its inception through exciting events and unique social and traditional media campaigns; and

WHEREAS, For 30 years, The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island has given comfort and shelter to families with a sick child in a local hospital; a home-away-from-home, the House provides the parents and siblings of these children with a temporary haven in a secure and comfortable environment among other families sharing a similar burden; and

WHEREAS, The first Ronald McDonald House opened in October of 1974 as the result of the perseverance and dedication of Fred Hill, a former Philadelphia Eagles football player, whose daughter, Kim, was treated

for leukemia; and

WHEREAS, Over three decades ago, the dream and determination of The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island's founders Lyn Jurick, a trustee at Northwell Health (formerly North Shore-LIJ Health System) and Irving Klein, a prominent McDonald's Owner/Operator led to the inception of the 100th Ronald McDonald House in the world, The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Located in New Hyde Park, Queens, on the campus of the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York, the 42 bedroom home opened its doors for the first time on September 29, 1986, providing comfort and hope to families experiencing the pain of having a child undergoing medical treatment in area hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Through a series of programs and services, families staying at The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island are able to focus on their child's recovery; each day, numerous dedicated volunteers prepare home-cooked meals, transport children and their families to and from medical appointments, and provide a comfortable place for families to stay just steps from their child's bedside; and

WHEREAS, Families are also given the opportunity to give and receive support from other families going through a similar experience, allowing parents to recharge for the challenges of the next day; and

WHEREAS, Since its opening, The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island has graciously served over 20,000 families in the United States and more than 80 countries across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Years ago, an initiative called Project Design was added to The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island's rich history; with the help of generous leaders in the interior design industry, all of the spaces

in The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island have been completely re-designed to better comfort the 1,000+ families it serves each year; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2013, the House completed an extension of its services through a program called the Ronald McDonald Family Room, a

partnership with Stony Brook Children's Hospital; the Family Room provides support for families of more than 7,000 children who are hospitalized each year at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, helping to alleviate their anxiety of having a child in the hospital by keeping them close to their child's bedside; and

WHEREAS, The success of The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the institution and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, As The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island embarks on its 30th anniversary of keeping families close, the nonprofit hopes to generate awareness and a sense of pride throughout the community; as the House continues to expand its programming over the next year, it will also actively pursue plans to expand the number of families it can serve; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations which 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 30th Anniversary of The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island.