

2015-J5258

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Holly Baxter upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Constance E. Miller Award of Excellence by the Mental Health Association in Genesee County

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Holly Baxter upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Constance E. Miller Award of Excellence by the Mental Health Association in Genesee County, to be celebrated at its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, at Terry Hills Restaurant & Banquet Facility, Batavia, New York; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious award is given annually to an individual or an organization which demonstrates a commitment to excellence pertinent to the delivery and/or advocacy of quality community-based mental health services within Genesee County; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, Holly Baxter earned her Bachelor's degree in Human Services from the State University of New York at Empire State College in Rochester, New York; in addition, she is a Certified Information and Referral Specialist from the Alliance of Information and Referral Services (AIRS); and

WHEREAS, In January of 1996, Holly Baxter began her illustrious career in the Human Services field as a Case Manager for Shelter and Non-Shelter Residents of The Center for Youth Services in Rochester, New York;

and

WHEREAS, From June of 1999 until March of 2001, she worked at The Health Association Lifeline in Rochester; she then served as a Non-Residential Case Manager at the YWCA of Genesee County Domestic Violence Program, Batavia, New York, for over a year; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the YWCA, she held the title of Coordinator/Crisis Information and Referral Specialist at Regional Action Phone, Inc. (RAP), Batavia, for three years; she was then promoted to the title of Executive Director, a position she held from November of 2005 until December of 2011; and

WHEREAS, In December of 2011, Holly Baxter began working as the Program Manager for the Olmsted Center for Sight Call Contact Center in the Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming County Region; in this capacity, she oversaw operations of a not-for-profit, crisis and suicide information and referral helpline; and

WHEREAS, After it was determined that the Olmsted Center for Sight Call Contact Center was not meeting the needs of the County Mental Health Center, Holly Baxter used her past experience with RAP in cooperation with the CSB to design a model that was more appropriate, and was instrumental in securing the support of the YWCA to implement it; subsequently, the Care and Crisis Help Line (CCHL) was created; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 2015, Holly Baxter has served as Program Manager of CCHL; under her luminous leadership, it has exceeded all expectations, in number of calls received, professionalism of its staff, and in linkages to support services; and

WHEREAS, As Program Manager, Holly Baxter regularly puts the needs and desires of others before her own, and always works to help people through their crises without regard to the toll it may take on her; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unremitting commitment to her community, Holly Baxter has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the 2012-2013 Outstanding Adult Student of the Year, a Certif-

icate of Appreciation "For Outstanding Contributions to the Drug Free Communities Coalition of Genesee County," and a nominate for the 1999 Monroe County Youth Advocate of the Year; and

WHEREAS, The success of the CCHL is in direct correlation to the efforts of Holly Baxter, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all of her endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community she serves; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Holly Baxter has displayed throughout her life; 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 honor Holly Baxter upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Constance E. Miller Award of Excellence by the Mental Health Association in Genesee County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Holly Baxter.