

## 2017-J4828

Senate Resolution No. 4828

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMENDING the United Way of the Southern Tier  
upon the occasion of celebrating its Silver  
Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the practice 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 which 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 commend the United Way of the Southern Tier upon the occasion of celebrating its Silver Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, the United Way of the Southern Tier has worked to bring people, organizations and resources together to improve community well-being; this vital organization strives to give every person in its community an opportunity to enjoy the highest possible quality of life; and

WHEREAS, On November 19, 1993, the United Way of Chemung and Steuben Counties was incorporated, and Douglas Weber was selected President, and Ann Weiland was appointed Vice President, of the newly formed

organization located in Corning, New York; and

WHEREAS, The first annual meeting of the United Way of Chemung and Steuben Counties was held in April of 1994, and Joseph Manning was elected Chair of the Board of Directors; from 1995-2003, Andrew R. Mazzella held the title of President; and

WHEREAS, Under Andrew R. Mazzella's luminous leadership, the United Way of Chemung and Steuben Counties implemented its first strategic Plan "Building CommUnity"; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the organization was officially renamed United Way of the Southern Tier (UWST); three years later, the Community Solutions Committee was formed to guide policy and practice related to desired impact (children, seniors, health, basic needs, and family stability); and

WHEREAS, On January 17, 2001, UWST moved to its present location at 300 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 220 in Corning; Impact Teams were soon formed and the Community Response Fund was established to meet new and emergent needs; and

WHEREAS, UWST conducted community needs assessment, commissioned development of a secondary data report, and hosted a day-long forum on identified community issues to inform strategic planning in 2002; and

WHEREAS, The next year, the Board of Directors approved UWST's first impact-based Community Solutions Plan, "Mobilizing the Caring Power of Our Community"; Ron Hatch took on the role of third President of UWST; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the Community Response Fund was changed to the Strategic Investment Fund with the primary purpose to assist United Way in achieving its strategic goals in the community; and

WHEREAS, UWST assumed administration of the CA\$H Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program in 2007; six years later, UWST hired Quidoo Consulting and began Board-led Strategic Planning Process; and

WHEREAS, In spring of 2014, Steve Hughes becomes the fourth President of UWST; during this time, it was determined through various studies that early childhood development was the community's most pressing need; in fall of that year, UWST transitioned administration of the CA\$H program to Arbor Housing and Development; and

WHEREAS, During the winter of 2015, USWT began to implement its new strategic plan and pursuit of Collective Impact Framework, and in the spring, it began to focus on early childhood development; and

WHEREAS, USWT then secured funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission to establish Pathways to School Readiness in Steuben; in the fall of 2016, USWT holds a week-long Community Change Summit in Toronto and refined its focus to include Kids on Track, Basic Needs and Senior Supports; and

WHEREAS, In the beginning of 2017, USWT launches its new website and acquires Get Connected volunteer management platform; later, the Board adopts a five-year Strategic Fundraising Plan, and attends a retreat to deepen volunteer's understanding of declared community priorities and the role leaders play in moving new business models forward; and

WHEREAS, The success of the United Way of the Southern Tier is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff, 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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the United Way of the Southern Tier upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the United Way of the Southern Tier.