

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-258

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 6, 2018

To congratulate Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area on 100 years of service and to recognize the tens of thousands of individuals touched, hundreds of families created, and thousands of lives built for refugees fleeing war and devastation over the century of service.

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area provides services that offer hope and provide for the well-being of children, individuals, families, and communities in need without regard to religion, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, age, or ethnicity, assists congregations in identifying and responding to local and regional community needs, and promotes social justice, individual self-sufficiency, and the inherent worth of each human being;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area started in 1917 as an expression of the Lutheran Church's concern for people;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area has several locations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, including a main office located at 4406 Georgia Avenue, N.W., in Ward 4, which houses the organization's following functions: District and Maryland adoptions; foster care; Youth Haven; administration; finance; development; and communications and marketing;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area provides programs and services in 3 main areas: children's services; refugee and immigrant services; and Youth Haven;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area's Youth Haven participants, many of whom have HIV/AIDS, experience relationship or community violence, housing and food instability, or the absence of a parent because of incarceration or foster care, explore how to create healthy futures filled with purpose and responsibility through overnight retreats, wellness education, mentorship, peer support, and staff;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area collaborates with lawmakers and community partners to sustain policies that support refugees and directly helps refugees become self-sufficient through resettlement and employment services;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area offers foster care services and provides adoption home studies, enabling families to provide children with stable, loving homes and pairing children with the compassionate and caring families that they each deserve;

WHEREAS, in 2016, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area reunited into birth families or placed into adoptive families 19 foster children, provided 624 refugee adults with job training, and placed 32 unaccompanied refugee minors in loving families;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area mobilized over 600 volunteers in 2016;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area works with over 125 community partners to achieve its goals;

WHEREAS, in 2017, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area awarded the first Bold Journey Scholarships to 7 promising individuals who demonstrated the ability to achieve in the face of adversity;

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2017, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area hosted a Centennial Family Reunion to bring together current and former staff, clients, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area will celebrate 100 years of service with the Passport to the World event on March 1, 2018.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area 100th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and celebrates Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area for 100 years of creating families, strengthening lives, and engaging communities.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.