

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

By Staples

A RESOLUTION to recognize Girl Talk, Inc., on its success in the Knoxville area.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary community organizations that operate with purpose and conviction to improve the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization is Girl Talk, Inc., a nonprofit organization that has grown from a one-woman ministry effort to a thriving organization with three programs serving hundreds of young women in the Knoxville area; and

WHEREAS, Girl Talk, Inc., was founded in 2006 by Denetria "DeeDee" Moore; a native of Memphis, she was inspired by the struggles of her youth to develop a program for young women that would instill in them a strong sense of self-worth and provide them with a support network composed of peers and mentors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moore started the program in the living room of her apartment, hosting sleepovers and simply being present for the girls she mentored; even on this small scale, she achieved her aim for the program: providing a safe space in which young girls can express themselves, develop meaningful relationships with their female peers, and find guidance from mentors who encourage and support them; and

WHEREAS, because of DeeDee Moore's dedication and the need for such a program, Girl Talk, Inc., quickly outgrew her apartment living room to become a nonprofit serving girls ages nine to eighteen in the Knoxville area. Each girl was paired with a mentor and participated in monthly sleepovers and outings, developing meaningful peer and adult relationships; and

WHEREAS, Girl Talk, Inc., continued to grow in number and in scope, adding to its activities college tours, career tours, and She-pro presentations by professional women in the

Knoxville community; in 2014, the organization began a school-based program to reach those young women who were not able to participate in the community-based program; and

WHEREAS, through the school-based program, Girl Talk, Inc., pairs volunteers with elementary and middle schools in Knox County to provide weekly small-group mentoring and activities during afterschool programming; this affords the participants an opportunity to build relationships, share concerns and triumphs, develop coping and decision-making skills, and meet professional woman in the community who share their life experiences; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Girl Talk, Inc., expanded once again with the introduction of the Life Prep Academy; through this program, high school juniors and seniors receive guidance and support in transitioning to adulthood; participants learn techniques for budgeting and managing finances, applying for and enrolling in college, making healthy decisions, and securing employment, in addition to workplace etiquette and civic participation; and

WHEREAS, Girl Talk, Inc., has grown to include one part-time and three full-time staff members, dozens of volunteers, and hundreds of Girl Talk girls; in 2017-2018 alone, the organization served 180 girls, 100 percent of whom graduated or advanced to the next grade level; and

WHEREAS, Girl Talk, Inc., is one of the premier nonprofit organizations in Tennessee; it has made a difference in the lives of so many and is an example of what can be accomplished with drive, passion, and a heart for service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Denetria "DeeDee" Moore and Girl Talk, Inc., for twelve years of devoted service to the young women of the Knoxville area, commend the organization for its life-changing work, and extend our best wishes for its continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.