

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 561

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Empower Me Center on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those organizations that are pillars in their communities, providing vital support services that benefit the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, the Empower Me Center has provided adequate opportunities and support systems for children and adults with disabilities in the Middle Tennessee region; and

WHEREAS, a 501(c)(3) organization, the Empower Me Center was established in 1999 by executive director Michelle Hill and a group of pediatric therapists, aiming to increase responsibility, independence, and social skills among individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Empower Me Center purchased more than twenty-five acres of land in Wilson County and answered the community's call for additional services and a higher capacity for existing services; and

WHEREAS, to further expand its services, the Empower Me Center is currently conducting a capital campaign and has raised more than \$1.5 million toward its first-phase goal of \$5 million; a survey and site work have been donated, sewer has been brought to the property, and their site plan has been approved; and

WHEREAS, the Center's goal is to continue raising funds for Phase One, which will be put toward an education building equipped with activity and gathering rooms, as well as an outdoor pavilion, a soccer field, bocce courts, and a putting area and driving range; and

WHEREAS, Phase Two of the project will include constructing a 37,000-square-foot community recreational building and recreational sports complex, which will include a splash pad, adaptive playground, covered sports court, and miracle league baseball field; and

WHEREAS, the Center worked with a basketball league for individuals with disabilities and provided a summer day camp; after learning additional activities would be necessary to fulfill the needs of these families, it extended its services to include an additional fourteen continuing respite and enrichment events, and it now offers Day Dreamers, an adult program operating four days per week; and

WHEREAS, the Empower Me Center's goal is to expand support services and maximize each child's abilities, recognizing that each participant has a gift to share with the world and affording each individual the opportunity to succeed; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, the Empower Me Center has remained a leading provider of community-based services for citizens with disabilities and played an invaluable role in the lives of children, adults, and families throughout the region, and it is appropriate that we recognize this stalwart organization on this momentous occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Empower Me Center on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.