

No. R-404. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Our Community Cares Camp organization on entering its 10th year of operation.

(H.C.R.330)

Offered by: Representatives Gardner of Richmond, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Till of Jericho, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Ingram, Lyons, Pearson, and Sirotkin

Whereas, in 2009, the Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) was incorporated as a summertime service to reach children of families in the Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) who are food insecure, of low income, and under-resourced, and

Whereas, the essential points of the OCCC mission and vision are to create “a caring, nourishing community” dedicated to “developing a rich culture” for the children participating in OCCC programs, and

Whereas, OCCC addresses three important issues: 1) food insecurity in the summer, 2) the achievement gap, and 3) the opportunity gap for children from families of lower income, and

Whereas, the supportive, caring community, the quality time spent with caring adults and older teens, and the opportunities to discover new skills and strengths promote resiliency against adverse childhood experiences, and

Whereas, these camps are operated at no cost to the campers on a four-week, half-day schedule, and

Whereas, many campers attend for multiple years, moving from camper to intern to counselor, demonstrating a progression that can be a path out of poverty, and

Whereas, the innovative public-private partnership between OCCC and other local entities enables lower-income CESU students to attend summer activity programs, get the nutrition they need to stay healthy, perform community service, participate in job and leadership training opportunities with a lifelong impact, and raise their awareness of challenges affecting families of lower income, and

Whereas, the governmental, business, and nonprofit organizations partnering with OCCC create a safety net that exemplifies an ideal community, and

Whereas, in 2018, OCCC is entering its 10th year of providing summer food and nourishment services within a caring supportive community setting, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Our Community Cares Camp organization on entering its 10th year of operation, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the OCCC organization in Richmond.