**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND DECLARE MAY 2, 2017, AS “PALMETTO GIVING DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Georgetown County, by a grassroots collection of local nonprofit organizations and facilitated by the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, has organized an annual twenty‑four hour online giving event to be held on the first Tuesday of May, known as Palmetto Giving Day; and

Whereas, philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. This tradition of giving and sharing is paramount to a higher quality of life and is an investment in our community to hold steadfast the values we cherish which will define our future; and

Whereas, the goal for this day is to raise five hundred thousand dollars among all of the participating organizations in support of growing the Georgetown community; and

Whereas, thirty‑three organizations have banded together for the sake of this philanthropic day. The nonprofit organizations involved include A Father’s Place, Amazing Journey, Avian Conservation Center, Barnabas Horse Foundation, Bible Way Community Learning Center, Brookgreen Gardens, Carolina Human Reinvestment, Center for Heirs’ Property Preservation, Children’s Recovery Center, Dragon Boat at the Beach, Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry counties, Freedom Readers, Friends of Coastal South Carolina, Friendship Place Inc., Georgetown County Family YMCA, Good Friends of Georgetown County, Habitat for Humanity Georgetown County, Helping Hands of Georgetown, Inc., Hugs for Horses Therapeutic Riding Program, Miss Ruby’s Kids, Murrells Inlet 2020, Pawley’s Island Child Development Center, Pee Dee Community Project, Rape Crisis Center Serving Horry and Georgetown counties, Saint Frances Animal Center, Smith Medical Clinic, South Carolina Environmental Law Project, Teach My People, The Cultural Council of Georgetown County, The Mitney Project, The Village Group, Tidelands Community Hospice Foundation, and Winyah Rivers Foundation. On this first annual Palmetto Giving Day, these organizations are participating in a collective effort to make Georgetown and South Carolina a better place to live, work, and play; and

Whereas, this passion project was created in response to the incredible results gained from Lowcountry Giving Day, a regional day of giving hosted through the Coastal Community Foundation in Charleston. A few years ago, Lowcountry Giving Day was among the most successful days of giving in the entire nation. In 2016, approximately twenty‑four Georgetown County nonprofits collectively raised $369,000 in the twenty‑four hour online giving event. When it was announced that Lowcountry Giving Day would not be done this year, a group of nonprofit leaders got together to create an alternative in order to continue the growth in Georgetown; and

Whereas, the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation in Pawleys Island has been instrumental in encouraging and facilitating this event. The foundation made a five thousand dollar grant to purchase the hosting platform services of Kimbia, a main host site for Give Local. This allows people to make donations online, which helps increase the amount of donations collected; and

Whereas, in addition to the grant, Ashley Nelson of the Bunnelle Foundation has been working as project manager of Palmetto Giving Day, selflessly giving of her time and expertise for the coordination of this event; and

Whereas, Kimbia will do the detail work for Palmetto Giving Day, which includes website design, collection of contributions, and issuing checks to the nonprofits. On May 2, the website will feature a leaderboard showing the contributions each of the thirty‑three nonprofits have received during this effort; and

Whereas, any time citizens of South Carolina come together in an effort to better our State for the future of all is a beautiful day in the Palmetto State. The members of the House of Representatives commend the efforts these nonprofits have put forth for the future of our communities. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and declare May 2, 2017, as “Palmetto Giving Day” in South Carolina.

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