**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE WORK OF LANCASTER FATHERHOOD PROJECT IN STRENGTHENING FAMILIES THROUGH FATHER ENGAGEMENT, AND TO CELEBRATE THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the Lancaster Fatherhood Project will sponsor the fourteenth annual Unity in the Community on June 26, 2010; and

Whereas, with free food, entertainment, games, prizes, and information booths, Unity in the Community 2010 will provide information to those in attendance about the role of the Fatherhood Project and other agencies in combating the problems caused in father‑absent homes and about the various programs the organization offers to strengthen fatherhood; and

Whereas, the Lancaster Fatherhood Project, one of seven programs of the South Carolina Fatherhood Initiative, is a community‑based program designed to strengthen families through father engagement in order to reduce the social and economic consequences in father‑absent homes, which nationally have increased by two hundred seventy percent in the last fifty years; and

Whereas, programs in the South Carolina Fatherhood Initiative are based on research from the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina and are directed at equipping fathers with knowledge and skills to help them become productive and self‑sufficient men by establishing their position in the workplace and in the lives of their children and families and as responsible community members; and

Whereas, proving that fathers make a difference, research has shown that hard‑core crime, school dropout rates, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and poverty are directly related to father absence; and

Whereas, a statewide effort, the South Carolina Fatherhood Initiative has seven fatherhood programs with thirteen sites in communities across the State that identified father absence as a problem and that provide a wide range of intervention services to low income, non‑custodial fathers, eighteen years of age and over; and

Whereas, Lancaster Fatherhood Project addresses needs of these fathers in Lancaster and Chester counties with funding from South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, the J. Marion Sims Foundation, the Springs Close Foundation, Children’s Trust Fund of South Carolina, United Way of Lancaster, and other public and private donors; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the ongoing efforts and the resulting success of the Lancaster Fatherhood Project to fight not only economic poverty but also poverty of the mind, heart, and spirit and to renew and strengthen society through reconnecting fathers with their children. 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 honor the work of Lancaster Fatherhood Project in strengthening families through father engagement, and celebrate the fourteenth annual Unity in the Community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Tyrom Faulkner, executive director of Lancaster Fatherhood Project.

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