**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL AND ITS DEDICATED STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL DANCE MARATHON THAT RAISED OVER FIFTY‑FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BENEFIT PALMETTO HEALTH CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL.

Whereas, on Saturday, March 14, 2015, hundreds of Cardinal Newman students danced for “The Greatest Cause on Earth” and raised $54,559.36 for Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital in Columbia, the local Children’s Miracle Network Hospital; and

Whereas, Dance Marathon is a nationwide movement involving college and high school students at more than two‑hundred‑fifty schools across the country, all raising money for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospital in their communities; and

Whereas, the annual Cardinal Newman Dance Marathon (CNDM) is an eight‑hour event where students dance, play carnival games, eat, and perform a five‑minute student‑choreographed line dance in the closing ceremony, to raise funds for Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital; and

Whereas, during the event, Miracle families from the area who have benefitted from Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital services share their stories to give greater meaning to the music and dancing; and

Whereas, a student‑focused event, CNDM is planned and directed by the executive team, consisting of freshmen and sophomores who help at all CNDM events. The executive board consists of juniors and seniors chosen from an application and interview process; and

Whereas, Mrs. Laura Chambers and Mr. Tony Haughey spent countless hours with members of the executive team and the CNDM Team to make CNDM a success. The CNDM Team secured sponsors, held countless bake sales, hosted a pancake breakfast, and participated in several “percent give‑back nights” at local restaurants; and

Whereas, although Cardinal Newman is a small school, students worked extremely hard for months to achieve their goal and make a positive difference in their community, with the amazing result that over the past four years CNDM has raised over $146,000 for the Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital; and

Whereas, in 2012, Cardinal Newman School was the first high school in the State and the first Midlands junior high/high school to partner with the University of South Carolina Dance Marathon; and

Whereas, in 2013, Cardinal Newman student Abigail “Abi” Cruz received nine months of inpatient chemotherapy to battle osteogenic sarcoma, cancer of the bone, at Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital. She appreciates the exceptional care she received from Dr. Neuberg and his staff at Palmetto Children’s Hospital, which allowed her to participate fully in the third and fourth annual dance marathons; and

Whereas, CNDM hosted the first “Mini Marathons” at St. Joseph and St. John Neumann Catholic Schools to create awareness about Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital. CNDM held the first “5‑K in a day” social media and drive‑thru donation event raising over $10,700; and

Whereas, the result of these efforts was the check Cardinal Newman presented at the USC Dance Marathon for USC’s Dance Marathon goal of raising “half a million in half the time.” Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Cardinal Newman School and its dedicated students who participated in the annual dance marathon that raised over fifty‑four thousand dollars to benefit Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Principal Jacqualine Kasprowski.

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