**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE DICKERSON CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TWENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE ORGANIZATION FOR A QUARTER CENTURY OF COMPASSIONATE SERVICE TO CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF ABUSE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased and grateful to learn that the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center is celebrating a quarter century of service to abused children in this State; and

Whereas, the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center is a child advocacy center that facilitates a multidisciplinary‑team approach to the investigation and treatment of child abuse that serves Lexington, McCormick, Edgefield, and Saluda counties; and

Whereas, the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center (DCAC) was founded at 1615 Augusta Road, West Columbia, in a house that began as the Ludeke Touring Home in the 1940s. The home was purchased by Nettie Dickerson, who lived there for many years with her husband, raising their three children; and

Whereas, in the early 1990s, a task force of community professionals began discussing the need for a children’s advocacy center and a member of the task force approached Nettie about utilizing the house, which she had leased to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, for the proposed center. As a result, in February 1995 the Lexington County Children’s Center was established; and

Whereas, in the twenty‑five years since its beginning, the center has served thousands of children and their family members. In a tribute to the generosity of the caring Dickerson family, the center changed its name to the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center. While the old house served the children of West Columbia, Cayce, and Lexington County well for over twenty years, in 2016 DCAC moved to a new facility in the Town of Lexington; and

Whereas, DCAC is dedicated to serving children who are in need of assistance during the investigation and treatment of physical and sexual abuse, drug endangerment, and the witnessing of violence. Staff members strive to make painful moments in the lives of these children and their families a little easier to bear. In order to accomplish this, DCAC looks to individuals, businesses, and the community at large for support; and

Whereas, the DCAC holds several fundraising events throughout the year. These events are planned by a group of ladies known as the Fun(d)raisers. For twenty years this group of professional representatives have raised almost one million dollars for the center; and

Whereas, the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center provides an inclusive approach to collecting forensic data that includes, but is not limited to, interviews, medical, and mental health tests; and

Whereas, victim advocate services are provided to victims of child abuse from birth to age eighteen. The victim advocate provides support, education, referral, and crisis intervention to the child and non‑offending family members in an effective, time‑sensitive manner; and

Whereas, ongoing support is offered, and onsite therapy is continued or restarted as necessary; and

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate for the House to pause in its deliberations to salute the worthy labors of the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center and to wish the center continued success in its mission of mercy in assisting abused children. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center on the occasion of its twenty‑fifth anniversary and commend the organization for a quarter century of compassionate service to children who are victims of abuse.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Dickerson Children’s Advocacy Center.

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