**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE SPARTANBURG SOUTHSIDE LIONS CLUB UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO EXPRESS THE UTMOST GRATITUDE FOR ITS TEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF SPARTANBURG.

Whereas, in March of 2011, a group of men and women in the Southside community of downtown Spartanburg came together to discuss how they could better serve the needs of their community. They were approached by members of the Spartanburg Lions Club and asked if they would form a Southside Lions Club; and

Whereas, on May 17, 2011, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club was chartered with thirty‑five members who immediately began to assess the needs of the community; and

Whereas, in June 2011, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club accepted the challenge to raise twelve thousand dollars in six months and be the first club in South Carolina to purchase a special camera that would perform eye screenings for everyone from children six months of age to adults in their nineties. The challenge was met in April 2012, and when the camera was delivered, work in the elementary schools began; and

Whereas, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club plays an important role in providing individuals and families with limited income the necessary resources to receive free eye exams and free eye glasses for those who otherwise would not be able to afford them; and

Whereas, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club offers a variety of services to the residents of the Southside Community including providing clothing to the homeless at Miracle Hill Ministries, as well as the homeless and less fortunate at the Spartanburg Opportunity Center. They also organize food drives for the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen, provide Backpack Buddies weekend bags for the children at Mary H. Wright Elementary School, and facilitate Panera Bread donations to Poinsett House Apartments for Seniors; and

Whereas, on February 11, 2013, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club chartered the Alpha LEO Club at Carver Middle School, and on September 20, 2016, they chartered the Alpha LEO Club at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. These children are now being taught how to give back to their communities through volunteerism; and

Whereas, the motto “We serve,” applies to the charitable and humanitarian priorities of the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club to include eyesight preservation and blindness prevention, diabetes awareness, services for seniors, and awareness and outreach for childhood cancer, childhood diabetes, and environmental concerns; and

Whereas, the purpose of the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club is to create and foster a spirit of understanding among people in the community; to promote the principles of good government and good citizenship; to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community; to encourage service‑minded individuals to serve their communities without personal financial reward; and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, public works, and professional and private endeavors; and

Whereas, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club is committed to supporting Lions Clubs International with financial contributions to various projects including the Lions Clubs International Foundation, Leader Dog, Melvin Jones Fellow, and Lions Clubs International Peace Poster; and

Whereas, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club is committed to financial contributions to State and District projects including Lions Vision Services, Dr. Franklin G. Mason Fellow, Blind Fishing Tournament, Storm Eye Institute, and the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind; and

Whereas, the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club has hosted the Sparkle City Rhythm and Ribs Festival in Barnet Park for the past five years. The fundraiser is instrumental in promoting the hospitality and tourism industry for the City of Spartanburg; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives would like to congratulate the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club on their tenth anniversary on May 27, 2021. The members would also like to recognize the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club for ten years of promoting community service and humanitarian assistance, encourage them to continue to emphasize the values of community service and improving the community for all individuals, and applaud them for instilling in young people the value of community service. 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 Spartanburg Southside Lions Club upon the occasion of its tenth anniversary and express the utmost gratitude for its ten years of dedicated service to the citizens of Spartanburg.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Spartanburg Southside Lions Club.

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