

2015-J992

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the employees of the Orange County Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities' Housing Resource Center upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2015 Caritas Award by Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those individuals and organizations within the State of New York which have shown a long-standing commitment to improving the health and well-being of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the employees of the Orange County Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities' Housing Resource Center upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2015 Caritas Award by Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County at its 9th Annual Celebration of Charity to be held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at Anthony's Pier 9, New Windsor, New York; and

WHEREAS, The use of heroin has risen to epidemic proportions in Orange County; as part of Catholic Charities' commitment to combating the increase of this rampant outbreak, all staff with client contact participated in Narcan training last year; a training program initiated by the Orange County Department of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, Narcan, also known as Naloxone, is used to reverse the effects of a heroin overdose; administered by injection into a large muscle or by nasal mist, Narcan blocks the brain's opiate receptors and reverses the perilous effect of the overdose; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after receiving the training, employees of Orange County Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities' Housing Resource Center were faced with a real life addict overdosing on heroin;

working together, they quickly assessed the situation, administered Narcan, and called 911 for assistance, subsequently saving the client's life; and

WHEREAS, One week later, a similar situation arose and another life was saved due to the quick and astute actions, coupled with the teamwork displayed by the skilled employees at the Orange County Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities' Housing Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, These stellar employees serve as extraordinary examples of those who demonstrate a deep respect for the dignity of every individual by serving the basic needs of the most vulnerable in our midst and by significantly contributing to the building of a compassionate and just society; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated by the employees of the Orange County Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities' Housing Resource Center over careers of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is with great admiration that this Legislative Body applauds the efforts of all the individuals involved in these vital organizations who continue to proactively work for the health, safety and future of our great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the employees of the Orange County Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities' Housing Resource Center upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2015 Caritas Award by Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the employees of the Orange County Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities' Housing Resource Center.