

2015-K741

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Women's Opportunity Center on June 19, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Women's Opportunity Center, to be celebrated on Friday, June 19, 2015, at Coltivare, Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1978, the Women's Opportunity Center remains true to its mission to lead low income women to the pathway out of poverty by providing them with individualized career counseling and training, as well as removing barriers to enable them to become job ready and find employment; and

WHEREAS, In Tompkins County, single mothers are at the head of more than 30 percent of families under the poverty level, which translates to 31,000 single mothers in the local area who are making less than they and their children need to survive; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, a majority of these women have been subjected to either physical or emotional abuse in the home; subsequently, many women who come to the Women's Opportunity Center arrive in desperate straits; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of its Executive Director for the past 27 years, Dammi Herath, the Women's Opportunity Center has helped 15,000 women return to the workforce by providing career guidance in the form of mock interviews, resume writing and computer training;

and

WHEREAS, Over the past 35 years, the dedicated staff at the Women's Opportunity Center has helped countless displaced women find accommodations; the encouragement and confidence building which grows from the center is truly immeasurable; and

WHEREAS, While 500 women looking for assistance walk through the door every year, it is impossible to place a number on the impact the staff and volunteers at the Women's Opportunity Center have had and continue to have on those women, their children, extended families, and the community-at-large; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished history, the Women's Opportunity Center has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Women's Opportunity Center is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Women's Opportunity Center; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Women's Opportunity Center on June 19, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Women's Opportunity Center, Ithaca, New York.