

## 2015-K926

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Gail Hewson upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award by Happiness House

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gail Hewson upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award by Happiness House celebrated at its 13th Annual Gala Dinner and Auction Event, to be held on Friday, February 5th, 2016, at Belhurst Castle, Geneva, New York; and

WHEREAS, Given annually, this auspicious award is presented to individuals who have dedicated their time and serve as advocates on behalf of people with developmental disabilities, Gail Hewson's outstanding contributions and accomplishments are consistent with the mission and vision of Happiness House; and

WHEREAS, Gail Hewson was born and raised in Palmyra, New York, and earned her bachelor's degree in Business from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1972; after graduation, she owned and operated a women's apparel store for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Gail Hewson returned to RIT and furthered her education by obtaining her degree in Educational Interpreting for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students; for 21 years, she was employed by the Deaf Education Department of Monroe BOCES No. 1; and

WHEREAS, Gail Hewson and her husband, David, learned about Happiness House and the great things that happen there through their friends,

Board Member Roy Beecher and his wife, Nancy; Gail Hewson became inspired to volunteer her time and energies to this worthy organization; and

WHEREAS, Three years ago, Gail Hewson began working with the children in the Head Start program; having spent over two decades in public education, she truly believes that children who start school with an early education intervention program benefit greatly from the guidance of caring adults in a loving environment; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout has been her husband of 36 years, David, who feels privileged to be a part of her life and rejoices in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Gail Hewson has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of her family, friends, and community at large; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Gail Hewson has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gail Hewson upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award by Happiness House; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gail Hewson.