

## 2015-J4888

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency on May 13, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 that are devoted 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 50th Anniversary of the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, to be celebrated at its Annual Gala on Friday, May 13, 2016, at Hart's Hill Inn, Whitesboro, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson and the United States Congress enacted into law the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) and the "War on Poverty" was declared; and

WHEREAS, The Act established the Office of Economic Opportunity, which was part of the executive branch of government and reported directly to the President; within the next two years, more than 1,600 community action programs opened throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency (MVCAA) was established in 1965, to help families throughout both Oneida and Herkimer Counties to become self-sufficient by providing numerous services such as safe, efficient housing, a positive start for their children, emergency help for youth and families, as well as information, education, and training; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, MVCAA respectfully empowers individuals, families and the communities of Herkimer and Oneida Counties by providing viable working solutions to moving people out of

poverty by helping them gain employment opportunities which enable them to achieve economic security; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the last five decades, this vital agency has gained a positive reputation throughout the local community for advocating the rights of economically challenged families and individuals as well as changing society's stereotypes regarding poverty; and

WHEREAS, Today, MVCAA operates 21 sites throughout Herkimer and Oneida Counties with 253 full-time and eight part-time employees who work in 22 different programs; the 21-member Board of Directors, which represents low-income neighborhoods, is assisted by the Herkimer, Rome, Utica, and Health Advisories and the Policy Council, whose members log in over 2,000 volunteer hours annually; and

WHEREAS, In addition, MVCAA partners with over 51 different organizations and agencies, including non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, local and state government agencies, school districts, consortiums, associations, colleges and health service organizations; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, through this life-changing agency's steadfast and unrelenting commitment, 52 pregnant women received Early Head Start Services, including medical and dental care; 6,179 women, infants and children participated in WIC; 1,063 children, ages 3-5 years, attended Head Start, 387 of whom successfully transitioned to Kindergarten; 153 youths attended summer recreation activities; 6 runaway youth received emergency shelter services; 145 at-risk parents received case management services improving their parental skills; 31 families received a child passenger seat and were taught proper installation; 140 families received energy conservation services; 528 families received rental

assistance; and 235 families received tax preparation assistance; as well as 40 seniors volunteered as Foster Grandparents; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of Board of Director Chair, Phonon Perrilloux, MVCAA remains resilient in its response to the

fluctuating community needs among shifting socio-economic and political landscapes; and

WHEREAS, The success of the MVCAA is in direct correlation to the efforts of its community partners, board members, public officials, 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 Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency; 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 50th Anniversary of the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Phonon Perrilloux, Chair, Mohawk Valley Action Agency Board of Directors.