

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Institute for Community Living upon the occasion of its 27th Anniversary Giving Voice to Independence Gala on May 8, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of organizations which provide vital mental health services to individuals and their families, and in so doing, enhance the health and welfare of the entire City and State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Institute for Community Living as it celebrates 27 years of facilitating community living at its annual Giving Voice to Independence Gala, to be held at the Ritz Carlton Battery Park on Wednesday, May 8, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1986, the Institute for Community Living, Inc. (ICL) is a not-for-profit corporation which assists individuals and families affected by, or at risk for, mental and developmental disabilities with services and support designed to improve their quality of life and participation in community living; and

WHEREAS, Each and every day ICL works to create accessible and attainable possibilities for people who would otherwise live on the margins of society; and

WHEREAS, Through its more than 100 programs, the Institute for Community Living provides evidence-based and best practice innovative treatments, rehabilitation programs and support services annually to over 10,000 adults, children and families in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, People come to ICL wanting to reclaim their lives; in support of that objective the Institute for Community Living also offers over 1,500 housing units and a comprehensive system of clinical treatment options as well as a short-term transitional housing program for veterans and a Brooklyn shelter for women with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, The Institute for Community Living has, in addition, expanded its mission to address a critical national issue: the 25 year difference in average life span between people with serious mental illness, many of whom live with multiple serious health conditions such as diabetes, asthma and hypertension, and the general population; and

WHEREAS, To this end, through its New York State-licensed health care clinic and cutting edge health education programs, ICL is teaching disease management, healthy living, and health care self-management skills to thousands of men and women who participate in its programs in the hope that they will live longer with improved quality of life and will need less costly healthcare over the course of their lives; and

WHEREAS, ICL has also turned its attention to often neglected children and teenagers with behavioral challenges and is offering mental health care in local schools, community residence programs for teenagers with serious emotional disturbances, and support and advocacy to hundreds of families who have children with behavioral challenges; though these programs are relatively new, they are transforming lives; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished history, ICL has been committed to providing high quality services and supports to the people it serves, permitting them to achieve their full potential while living in the community of their choice; and

WHEREAS, The success of ICL is due in large part to the efforts of its outstanding administration and staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthu-

siasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all their endeavors on behalf of the Institute and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations, such as the Institute for Community Living, which bring greater awareness to mental health issues, assist people with mental illnesses in their quest for dignity and independence, and make it possible for people on the periphery of society to regain a firm foothold in their community, contribute significantly to the health and welfare of all citizens and merit the highest commendation and the recognition and appreciation of all the citizens of the City and State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Institute for Community Living upon the occasion of its 27th Anniversary Giving Voice to Independence Gala on May 8, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Institute for Community Living.