

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Poverello Center upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award by the Sister Maureen Joyce Center on February 9, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality of life in the communities across this great State of New York is enriched by the diligence and compassionate commitment of those individuals and organizations whose singular purpose is the care and welfare of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Poverello Center upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award by the Sister Maureen Joyce Center to be celebrated at its 4th Annual Dinner at Century House, Latham, New York, on Tuesday, February 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award is given annually to persons, organizations, and businesses which have demonstrated commitment to the spirit of the Sister Maureen Joyce Center through their outreach or advocacy on behalf of the poor and vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, The Sister Maureen Joyce Center is a collaborative project between Catholic Charities, Blessed Sacrament Parish, the Ladies of Charity, and Congregation Beth Emeth, which provides members of its community with basic necessities such as food, health care, and mentoring services for young people; and

WHEREAS, Founded by Father Alvin Somerville, OFM Conv. on March 28, 2001, the Poverello Center is a health clinic staffed by volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and chaplains, which provides high quality care to uninsured adults in the immediate community; and

WHEREAS, The name of this vital organization means "the little poor one," which is often used to describe St. Francis of Assisi, one of the most recognized religious figures in history; to honor this great man's legacy, the Poverello Center strives to understand and serve the health and wellness needs of the medically underserved, especially those who live and function in the West Hill area of Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated and caring staff of the Poverello Center provide free, high quality medical care, such as physical exams, and health screenings, as well as urgent care to uninsured adults every Wednesday evening; and

WHEREAS, In addition, a referral system has been established to link clients to legal counseling services, social services, and spiritual direction; linkages have also been established with medical providers in the community for clients with on-going chronic health problems which require more intensive health monitoring such as diabetes and asthma; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Poverello Center is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who volunteer their time and energies to this worthy establishment; presently the exceptional staff consists of seven physicians: Dr. William Cromie, Dr. Sarah Elmendorf, Dr. Janet Gargiulo, Dr. Denise Letteriello, Dr. Mary Rappazzo, Dr. Arthur Wallingford, and Dr. Amy Walsh; two nurse practitioners, Marybeth Bossolini and Margaret Nagy; and four registered nurses, Peggy DiManno, Barbara Ochampaugh, Betty Sullivan and Barbara Weidman; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the vital importance of the Poverello Center in providing excellence in care through prevention, education and treatment, and its evident commitment to this mission; and

WHEREAS, The Poverello Center, and its expert staff, has had a long and sustained commitment to the health and welfare of the citizens of

the West Hill area of Albany, New York, and therefore merits the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Poverello Center upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award by the Sister Maureen Joyce Center on February 9, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Poverello Center.