

**BY:** M. of A. Conrad

**COMMENDING** Educators Totally Committed upon the occasion of hosting its 35th Annual Jerry Starr Ken-Ton Schools' SleepOut from February 4-5, 2022

**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 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 commend Educators Totally Committed upon the occasion of hosting its 35th Annual Jerry Starr Ken-Ton Schools' SleepOut; and

**WHEREAS,** This yearly event will be held at the Hoover Complex in Tonawanda, New York, beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 4, 2022, and ending the next morning at 6 a.m.; and

**WHEREAS,** The SleepOut is organized by Educators Totally Committed (E.T.C.), a group of retired Ken-Ton School District teachers dedicated to inspiring students to help those in need, and is named in honor of one of its founders, the late Jerry Starr, who was always known for putting others before himself; and

**WHEREAS,** Those students from grades Kindergarten through 12th, teachers and staff who choose to "sleep out" will spend the night outside in refrigerator boxes to raise funds through pledges and awareness about the struggles faced by the homeless and the importance of helping those in need in our community; and

**WHEREAS,** All donations will stay in the Ken-Ton community and go to two homegrown Ken-Ton organizations that serve the needs of families: Ken-Ton Closet, which provides new and gently used clothing and everyday necessities for hundreds of Ken-Ton children and families, at its site in the former Jefferson Elementary building; and Family Support Center, which provides individual and family counseling, connections to local mental health service providers, and transportation to appointments (also addresses food insecurity through its on-site food pantry) for hundreds of Ken-Ton School District families, at the former Longfellow School behind Kenmore Middle School; and

**WHEREAS,** Individuals can also support the SleepOut through monetary, food, personal care items, new/gently used clothing and small furniture donations; and

**WHEREAS,** Since its inception in 1988, the Annual Jerry Starr Ken-Ton Schools' SleepOut has raised over \$1 million dollars along with donations of food, clothes and small furniture items for families in need in the Western New York region; and

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

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Educators Totally Committed upon the occasion of hosting its 35th Annual Jerry Starr Ken-Ton Schools' SleepOut, and to wish it great success in all its philanthropic endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Educators Totally Committed.