

**BY:** Senator MAYER

**COMMENDING** HOPE Community Services upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary on April 18, 2024

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the 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 HOPE Community Services upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary at its A Night of Hope Gala at the VIP Country Club in New Rochelle, New York, on Thursday, April 18, 2024; and

**WHEREAS,** HOPE (Help Our People Eat) Community Services is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization serving the residents of New Rochelle and its surrounding communities; it provides its assistance in an unbiased and non-discriminatory manner; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1984, Mary Lou McNaney, founder of HOPE Community Services, in response to the issues of hunger and homelessness in New Rochelle, established its Soup Kitchen with the assistance of a small number of volunteers; the Food Pantry, which provided bagged groceries, was created later that year; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout its past four decades, HOPE Community Services has become the largest emergency food program in Westchester County; it continues to perpetuate its founder's mission--striving to meet the needs of its community with warmth and respect; and

**WHEREAS,** As a multi-faceted community organization, HOPE Community Services manages one of the largest volunteer operations and offers its programs and services at no charge; and

**WHEREAS,** In its outreach to those people in need, HOPE Community Services provides support, including mobile, kosher, and senior pantries, community holiday dinners, housing, resources for homeless individuals, translation and immigration services, English and citizenship classes, and summer camp; and

**WHEREAS,** HOPE Community Services offers an inviting atmosphere of personal and respectful service to the community's disadvantaged individuals by meeting the needs of their bodies, minds, hearts, and spirits; and

**WHEREAS,** Additionally, HOPE Community Services encourages its clients to achieve personal responsibility, self-sufficiency, a fuller appreciation of dignity and self-worth, and recognition of the interdependence between others and themselves; and

**WHEREAS,** As HOPE Community Services continues to strengthen the New Rochelle constituency, investing in self-reliance and bolstering its programming, the aspiration of incorporating a community center may soon become a reality; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of HOPE Community Services is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, 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 community; 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 HOPE Community Services, upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary, and to honor its members, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the citizens of the community; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to HOPE Community Services.