

Senate Resolution 1279

By: Senators Adelman of the 42nd and Jones of the 10th

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Nicholas House; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Nicholas House is a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping  
3 homeless families achieve self-sufficiency; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Nicholas House provides a temporary home while staff work with families to  
5 identify and address the root causes of their homelessness in order to keep them from  
6 becoming homeless again; and
- 7 WHEREAS, founded in 1982, Nicholas House was the first transitional housing program  
8 within the state dedicated to homeless families; and
- 9 WHEREAS, over a quarter of a century later, Nicholas House continues to pursue its mission  
10 with goals that help to ensure homeless families earn a living wage, maintain a healthy  
11 family environment, and maintain their own permanent housing; and
- 12 WHEREAS, family homelessness is the most rapidly growing segment of the homeless  
13 population and currently represents nearly 20 percent of all homeless people, with 70 percent  
14 being children; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Nicholas House provides a unique role in addressing family homelessness by  
16 accepting any composition of family to keep families intact and not separating by gender;  
17 emphasizing an accountability based program ensuring family progress toward specific goals  
18 leading to self-sufficiency; and focusing on long-term outcomes for success with up to two  
19 years of follow-up after families leave its services to cement gains and document program  
20 successes; and
- 21 WHEREAS, this caring organization provides critical support to homeless families via  
22 temporary housing at multiple transitional shelters and apartment based housing; adult

1 education and training availability; and youth services programming with after-school  
2 assistance, summer camp, and activities addressing the unique academic, behavioral, and  
3 social needs of homeless children, as well as follow-up aftercare support; and

4 WHEREAS, this program has an established proven record of sustainable success with  
5 nearly 75 percent of families continuing to maintain self-sufficiency and their own housing  
6 two years or more after leaving its services; all children graduating to the next grade levels  
7 with a high percentage on honor rolls; widespread community support of nearly 25,000 hours  
8 of volunteer support annually; and an organizational commitment to excellence,  
9 effectiveness, and efficiency in serving the community; and

10 WHEREAS, Nicholas House envisions expanding its services to address the growing need  
11 and substantial waiting list as well as providing community leadership as a best practice  
12 model in addressing family homelessness; and

13 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to recognize with particularity  
14 the outstanding accomplishments of this extraordinary organization.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STATE SENATE that the members of  
16 this body recognize and commend Nicholas House for its success in helping homeless  
17 families achieve sustainable self-sufficiency and as a model for addressing the issue and  
18 causes of family homelessness within Georgia and express support for its continuing efforts  
19 to eliminate family homelessness by creating a new start for families today while breaking  
20 the cycle of homelessness and poverty among future generations.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
22 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Executive Director and Board of  
23 Directors of Nicholas House, Inc.