

Senate Resolution 1109

By: Senator Hamrick of the 30th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 7, 2012, as Youth Villages Georgia Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Youth Villages is a nonprofit organization which was founded in Memphis,  
4 Tennessee, in 1986 by Patrick W. Lawler and now serves children, youth, and their families  
5 in ten states; and

6 WHEREAS, Youth Villages expanded its work by moving to Georgia in 2008 in part to help  
7 with children involved in the *Kenny A. v. Perdue* Consent Decree and specifically to work  
8 with vulnerable children and youth who often wind up in state custody; and

9 WHEREAS, with a mission to help children and families live successfully, Youth Villages  
10 believes that strong families ensure that each child has a functioning family and a safe,  
11 permanent home, which in turn results in safer neighborhoods and better communities for  
12 everyone; and

13 WHEREAS, Youth Villages serves children and their families in the metro area of Atlanta  
14 through their Intercept program and in Douglasville with their psychiatric residential  
15 treatment facility, Inner Harbour; and

16 WHEREAS, Youth Villages works with children who receive referrals from Georgia's  
17 Departments of Human Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and  
18 Juvenile Justice; and

19 WHEREAS, a nationally recognized model for working with vulnerable children, youth, and  
20 their families, Youth Villages garners a great success rate on the children and youth they  
21 serve, preventing them from re-entering the state's system or ending up in the court systems;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Youth Villages of Georgia found their success as of June of 2011, based on  
24 research conducted six months after discharge from their program that the children and youth  
25 that were served for at least 60 days of service in Intercept had shown 73 percent of youth  
26 were at home with family, 84 percent of those had reported no trouble with the law, and 92  
27 percent of those remained in school, had graduated from high school, or were enrolled in  
28 GED classes; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
30 distinguished organization, its staff, and its volunteers be appropriately recognized for their  
31 work to help children and youth and their families.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 extend a warm greeting to Youth Villages Georgia, its staff, and its volunteers; commend  
34 their past, present and future work on behalf of children, youth, and their families in this state  
35 and throughout our nation; and recognize March 7, 2012, as Youth Villages Georgia Day at  
36 the state capitol.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
38 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Youth Villages Georgia.