

Senate Resolution 1068

By: Senator Carter of the 42nd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 24, 2014, as Youth Villages Georgia Day at the state capitol; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Youth Villages, a nonprofit organization that began in Memphis, Tennessee,  
4 in 1986 by Patrick W. Lawler, continues to change children's lives and also serves children,  
5 youth, and their families in Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts,  
6 Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C.;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Youth Villages moved to Georgia in 2008 to help with children involved in the  
9 *Kenny A* consent decree and specifically to work with vulnerable children and youth who  
10 often wind up in state custody; and

11 WHEREAS, Youth Villages follows its mission, "help children and families live  
12 successfully," and the organization adheres to its values; and

13 WHEREAS, Youth Villages believes that strong families are the answer because they ensure  
14 that each child has a "functioning family and a safe, permanent home" which in turn results  
15 in safer neighborhoods and better communities for everyone; and

16 WHEREAS, Youth Villages serves children and their families through their Intercept  
17 program in the metro area of Atlanta and psychiatric residential treatment facility, Inner  
18 Harbour, in Douglasville; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Youth Villages also works closely with the Departments of Community Health  
23 and Education to serve many of these children; and

24 WHEREAS, Youth Villages has become a nationally recognized model for working with  
25 these vulnerable children, youth, and their families, and as such, the organization has  
26 achieved great success with children and youth; and

27 WHEREAS, Youth Villages uses its Evidentiary Family Restoration model, as well as  
28 evidence-informed services, to achieve successes with the children, youth, and families  
29 which it serves; and

30 WHEREAS, Youth Villages maintains data on these children, youth, and their families for  
31 two years post-discharge from their program and works with these individuals so that those  
32 children and youth do not reenter this state's system or otherwise wind up in this state's court  
33 systems; and

34 WHEREAS, Youth Villages is very proud of the assistance it provides to youth aging out of  
35 this state's foster care system through the organization's transitional living program, a  
36 program provided in Georgia through funds donated by Youth Villages's own employees;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
39 distinguished organization, its staff, and its volunteers be appropriately recognized for their  
40 dedication and work to better the lives of Georgia children, youth, and their families.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
42 recognize February 24, 2014, as Youth Villages Georgia Day at the state capitol, extend a  
43 warm greeting to Youth Villages Georgia, its staff, and its volunteers, and convey to them  
44 this legislative body's heartiest commendation for their past, present, and future work on  
45 behalf of children and youth and their families in this state and throughout our nation.

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