

Senate Resolution 102

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Dugan of the 30th, Millar of the 40th, Wilkinson of the 50th and Hill of the 6th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 9, 2015, as Youth Villages Georgia Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Youth Villages currently serves children and their families through a psychiatric
17 residential treatment facility, Inner Harbour in Douglasville, and has previously served
18 children and their families through their Intercept program, an in-home program in the metro
19 Atlanta area; and

20 WHEREAS, Youth Villages works with children who receive referrals from Georgia's
21 Departments of Human Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and
22 Juvenile Justice, and also works closely with the Departments of Community Health and
23 Education to serve many children; and

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

27 WHEREAS, Youth Villages has received acclaim from well-respected organizations,
28 including Casey Family Programs, the nation's largest foundation solely focused on foster
29 care, and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, which has invested millions of dollars to
30 facilitate more work with youth with low-income backgrounds; and

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

34 WHEREAS, Youth Villages maintains data on these children, youth, and their families for
35 two years post-discharge from their program and works with these individuals so that those
36 children and youth do not re-enter this state's system or otherwise wind up in this state's court
37 systems; and

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

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

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
45 recognize February 9, 2015, as Youth Villages Georgia Day at the state capitol, commend
46 Youth Villages Georgia, its staff, and its volunteers, and convey to them our heartiest
47 commendation for their past, present, and future work on behalf of children, youth, and their
48 families in this state and throughout the United States.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Youth Villages
51 Georgia.