Senate Resolution 40

By: Senators Dugan of the 30th, James of the 35th, Brass of the 28th, Esteves of the 6th, Anderson of the 24th and others

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing and commending Youth Villages; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Youth Villages-Georgia is a nonprofit organization that provides mental and behavioral health services to children, families, and young people; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages began in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1986 with the merger of two residential campuses; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages works to better the lives of more than 30,000 children, families, and young people annually in 23 states and throughout the District of Columbia at 100 locations through effective evidence-based programs; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Youth Villages is to "help children and families live successfully," and the organization adheres to its values which includes that "kids' needs come first…always," believing that no child is a "lost cause"; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages believes that strengthening and restoring families helps children grow up in safe, nurturing homes, which in turn results in safer neighborhoods and better communities for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages' involvement in Georgia began in 2008, helping children involved in the *Kenny A.* consent decree and working with vulnerable children and youth who often wind up in state custody; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages-Georgia serves children and their families through its Inner Harbour Campus, a psychiatric residential treatment facility in Douglasville, Georgia, and serves children and their families in the community through its Intercept intensive in-home program in the metro Atlanta area; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages' Intercept Program is an evidence-based intensive in-home parenting skills program used to safely prevent children from entering out-of-home care that focuses on reunifying those children with family as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages' Intercept Program has been acknowledged by Clearinghouse with a well-supported designation; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages is further committed to helping transition-age foster youth become successful, independent adults, and it offers its LifeSet program to provide life skills to young people in the metro Atlanta area so that they may thrive independently; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages partners with the Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Community Health, Education, Human Services, and Juvenile Justice to serve Georgia's children and families; and

WHEREAS, Youth Villages has earned its status as one of the nation's most promising result-oriented nonprofits, as recognized by GreatNonprofits, Harvard Business School, *U.S. News & World Report*, and the White House; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body congratulate Youth Villages-Georgia, its staff, and its volunteers and convey to them this legislative body's heartiest commendation for their past, present, and future work on behalf of children, youth, and their families in this state and throughout our nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Youth Villages-Georgia.