



HR0462

LRB103 34793 ECR 64644 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Barbara Olson Center
4 of Hope on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1948, the School of Hope was started by the
6 Rockford Parents Group to provide education for children who
7 were considered unable to learn; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1972, the School of Hope was renamed the
9 Barbara Olson Center of Hope to reflect its changing direction
10 to serve anyone with a developmental disability, including
11 adults, while offering a variety of programs to teach
12 participants vocational skills, including offsite programs
13 that provide opportunities to go into communities and learn
14 practical skills; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Barbara Olson Center of Hope won the
16 Excelsior Award, an honor bestowed upon an organization or
17 institution whose work has a positive effect on life in the
18 Rock River Valley; and

19 WHEREAS, The Barbara Olson Center of Hope has remained
20 dedicated to the community through its Volunteer Center, which
21 arranges volunteer opportunities at a number of programs and

1 organizations, including Meals on Wheels and the Rock River
2 Valley Food Pantry; and

3 WHEREAS, The Barbara Olson Center of Hope has expanded its
4 commitment to vocational skills through its Hope Industries,
5 offering a variety of subcontractor jobs from around the
6 country through which individuals have the opportunity to
7 learn work and life skills while earning a paycheck; and

8 WHEREAS, Through the dedication of its members and the
9 growing popularity of its consumers, the Barbara Olson Center
10 of Hope has branched off by creating GourMutts, a robust and
11 flourishing program that sells flavored dog treats and from
12 which all proceeds benefit the organization's participants and
13 programs; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2023, the Barbara Olson Center of Hope will
15 celebrate 75 years of dedicated service to individuals with
16 developmental disabilities within the Rockford region;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate the Barbara Olson Center of Hope on the
21 occasion of its 75th anniversary, and we recognize the
22 organization for its continued commitment to the development

1 and upliftment of individuals with developmental disabilities;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Barbara Olson Center of Hope as an expression of
5 our esteem and respect.