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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In 2002, the Chicago Zoological Society launched the Good Works Initiative at Brookfield Zoo for local high school students with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Zoo staff work with Good Works' students to develop and fine-tune time management, communications, and inter-personal skills so the students are better equipped to find employment or volunteer opportunities after graduation; and

WHEREAS, Good Works' participants come from 5 local high schools: Lyons Township, Hinsdale Central, Hinsdale South, Oak Park River Forest, and Riverside Brookfield and are at least 16 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Special education coordinators at the partner schools recommend students for Good Works and assist the students in completing and submitting adult volunteer applications to the Chicago Zoological Society; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Zoological Society also partners with the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education on the recruitment and placement of local high school students into Good Works; and

1 WHEREAS, Good Works' students volunteer at the Hamill
2 Family Play Zoo, an award-winning, nature-based, hands-on,
3 learning environment for children and families at Brookfield
4 Zoo; and

5 WHEREAS, Good Works' students assist Hamill Family Play Zoo
6 staff with activity preparation, help to create and maintain a
7 safe and welcoming environment for children and families, and
8 interact with guests; and

9 WHEREAS, The experience of many children and families at
10 the Hamill Family Play Zoo is enhanced because of the work that
11 Good Works' students do; and

12 WHEREAS, All throughout their Good Works experience,
13 students work closely with zoo staff and their school job
14 coaches on developing job and life skills with many
15 participants realizing noticeable growth in their social
16 skills and confidence levels; and

17 WHEREAS, Good Works' students work to overcome
18 developmental and social obstacles to competitive employment
19 in the community and receive intensive job support and
20 assistive job coaches at the zoo; and

1 WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Good Works, many students go
2 on to find fulfilling volunteer opportunities or paid
3 employment at the zoo or in the community; and

4 WHEREAS, Through Good Works, individuals with
5 developmental disabilities are realizing greater independence,
6 enhanced quality of life, and increased confidence through
7 their participation in this Brookfield Zoo-based initiative;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Through Good Works, awareness of roles within the
10 community for, and abilities of, individuals with
11 developmental disabilities is created and enhanced for guests
12 and staff at Brookfield Zoo, as well as members of the
13 surrounding communities; and

14 WHEREAS, As Good Works completes its 10th year, it is an
15 opportune time for the Illinois House of Representatives to
16 recognize and highlight the Good Works' students, their job
17 coaches, and families, and Chicago Zoological Society staff who
18 work every day to enrich the lives of those with developmental
19 disabilities; and

20 WHEREAS, If the conservation movement is going to be
21 successful, it must be inclusive and inspire people from all
22 income levels, and communities, while speaking to and hearing

1 from individuals with developmental disabilities; therefore,
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we celebrate the 10th year of the Good Works Initiative at
6 Brookfield Zoo and congratulate Good Works' participants and
7 graduates, and thank Good Works' supporters for their
8 commitment to enrich the lives of students with developmental
9 disabilities; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 provided to the Chicago Zoological Society to post at the
12 Hamill Family Play Zoo.