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Recognizing the Efforts of Shelter House, Inc. and the Recipients of the 2014 Volunteer Awards

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

MR. CONNOLLY: Mister Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable efforts of Shelter House, Inc., and to congratulate the recipients of the 2014 Volunteer Awards. Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization that works to break the cycle of homelessness by offering support to those most in need in the Northern Virginia community. Shelter House provides crisis intervention, temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, training, counseling, and programs to support self-sufficiency. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

Shelter House was founded in 1981 by several faith groups, which came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates three shelters: The Katherine K. Hanley and the Patrick Henry family shelters, which provide temporary housing for local families who become homeless, and Artemis House, Fairfax County's only emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. By partnering with Falls Church Presbyterian Church, Shelter House added permanent housing to its portfolio at the Ives House. Construction of additional permanent housing began earlier this year.

The programs operated by Shelter House have contributed greatly to breaking the cycle of homelessness. In FY 2013, Shelter House served 1,858 people in 523 households and significantly reduced the average length of stay for families at each of its shelters. FY 2013 was an exciting year for Shelter House's Community Case Management program. With the support of a grant from the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, Shelter House hired a Community Case Manager and was therefore able to increase the number of people served. The Community Case Management program focuses on homelessness prevention by providing financial assistance and support.

Volunteers and community partners are essential to this success, as they provide the tools necessary to combat homelessness. Their expertise, financial support, and efforts compose the foundation of Shelter House's commendable work. This year, Shelter House has recognized the following individuals and partners for their outstanding commitment to ending homelessness in our community, and I am very pleased to enter their names into the Congressional Record:

Changing Lives Awards:

- McLean Bible Church Justice Ministry
- Mars Incorporated
- Gracing Spaces
- Greg Ziegler

Creating New Beginnings Awards:

- Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
- BB&T Insurance Services, Inc.
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- St. John's Community Services

Community Champion Award: Supervisor John Cook

I congratulate the 2014 Volunteer Award recipients on being recognized for their extraordinary efforts and dedication to Shelter House. I also commend all Shelter House volunteers, as well as the private sector and government partners, who constantly strive to better our community through efforts to provide secure, structured environments, and indispensable support for families in need.

Mister Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Shelter House and its many volunteers and community partners. Their selfless work benefits the entire Northern Virginia community and improves the lives of many of our neighbors.