

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS,
AND HUMAN SERVICES

BILL NO. 32-0173

Thirty-Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 2, 2018

A Resolution honoring and commending The Family Resource Center for its services to victims and families in the U. S. Virgin Islands throughout the years

PROPOSED BY: Senator Janelle K. Sarauw
Co-sponsors: Marvin A. Blyden, Dwayne M. DeGraff,
Jean A. Forde, and Alicia Hansen

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Family Resource Center, formally Women’s Resource Center, began
2 its services in 1986 with the opening of its emergency shelter for women and children; and
3 **WHEREAS**, the Family Resource Center (“FRC”) is a private non-profit agency that
4 incorporated in 1987 to establish a counseling program and shelter for victims of domestic
5 violence and sexual assault; and
6 **WHEREAS**, since its inception, FRC has expanded its services to include all victims
7 of violent crime and families in crisis; and

1 **WHEREAS**, when FRC opened its doors over 31 years ago, its purpose was to end
2 family violence, it has been a long but fruitful journey from its first one room office to its
3 current four unique facilities; and

4 **WHEREAS**, one such facility is the Alice Hamilton Shelter/Safe House that is a 20-
5 bed operation for adults and children in an undisclosed location to protect clients' safety and
6 operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

7 **WHEREAS**, another facility is the Family Youth and Crisis Intervention Facility,
8 located in Estate Thomas which is a program to help troubled adolescents and their parents;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, another facility is the Spenceley Counseling Center Facility, where
11 critical counseling is provided for individual and groups, to aid children, adults and families
12 and is located at 2317 Commandant Gade 16B & 17; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the next facility is CeCe's closet-FRC's Second Chance Boutique -FRC's
14 thrift store to help provide clothing for those clients in need; and

15 **WHEREAS**, FRC provides numerous services for domestic violence and sexual
16 assault victims' services to protect them and their families, such as a 24 hour Crisis Line and
17 Crisis Responders, consisting of trained volunteers; an Individual and Group Counseling;
18 Support Groups; a Children & Teen Groups; a Legal Advocacy; an Outreach Education in the
19 community, and private and public schools; Information and referrals, a 24 hour Emergency
20 Shelter; a Permanent and Transitional Housing Assistance; a Safe house Transition Alley - Job
21 and Education Development and a Resource Library and Education Department; and

22 **WHEREAS**, FRC's 24-hour response services are the Women of Worth Group, the
23 Children/Intermediate/Adolescent Groups; Men Terminating Violence, Women Anger

1 Management; Family and Youth Crisis Intervention Program (“FYCIP”); FYCIP Rites of
2 Passage for families; FYCIP Rites of Passage Girls Rights of Passage; and

3 **WHEREAS**, its intervention services for child abuse victims includes not only
4 counseling, but court advocacy, emergency shelter and financial assistance to child victims of
5 physical and sexual abuse and neglect; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the services at FRC’s shelter for adult and child victims of Domestic
7 Violence and Sexual Abuse - The Alice Hamilton House - consists of providing meals,
8 clothing, personal hygiene products and a variety of other products, as well as necessary wrap
9 around services; and it also provides a no-charge prescription program offered by a local
10 pharmacy; and

11 **WHEREAS**, FRC provides safe accommodations in guest houses and hotels in
12 extreme emergency situations and when no other shelter is available or is deemed unsafe; and

13 **WHEREAS**, FRC’s referral services includes referrals to other community agencies
14 that may offer additional assistance; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the legal advocacy provided by FRC includes assistance in obtaining
16 restraining orders or protection orders, accompaniment to court hearings and criminal trials,
17 court representation and preparation for court; and

18 **WHEREAS**, FRC’s transitional housing assistance includes providing a one-time
19 rental assistance to prevent homelessness of its clients who are transitioning to independent
20 housing and who need assistance for the first month’s rent and/or security deposit; and

21 **WHEREAS**, its community outreach, which is a prevention tool, consists of outreach
22 activities to schools, faith-based organization, civic groups, community events at no cost. The
23 topics are domestic violence, child abuse and rape prevention; and

SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends the Family Resource Center for its dedicated service to the people of the Virgin Islands, by helping to end family violence and by assisting victims of such violence, through a myriad of programs and services.

12 **BILL SUMMARY**

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