

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200726D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 972

Offered October 28, 2025

Commending Ketchmore Kids, Inc.

Patrons—Scott, D. and Simonds

WHEREAS, Ketchmore Kids, Inc., an organization dedicated to serving youth and families by embodying a vision of hope, healing, and peace of mind and to strengthening communities across the Commonwealth and beyond, celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2025; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2005 by siblings Dr. Chanell Ketchmore and Dr. Troy Ketchmore, Ketchmore Kids has remained steadfast in its mission to empower young people, reduce violence, and equip families with tools for resilience and success, with programs that address conflict resolution, trauma recovery, and positive parenting; and

WHEREAS, Ketchmore Kids' flagship initiative, the Think Tank, is a six-week educational program that challenges youth to critically examine the consequences of their actions, fostering peaceful conflict resolution and reducing gun violence among pre-teens, teens, and young adults; and

WHEREAS, through its innovative Healing With Hip-Hop program, Ketchmore Kids has harnessed the power of music and creative expression to help young people process trauma, grief, and loss, turning pain into purpose and nurturing emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Ketchmore Kids' Positive Parenting Program provides critical support and education to parents, both voluntary and court-mandated, helping them strengthen communication, foster healthy relationships, and create nurturing homes; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Ketchmore Kids achieved remarkable milestones, including serving over 250 youth through its Think Tank program, reducing crime by 20 percent in the Aqueduct neighborhood of Newport News, and expanding services into detention centers across the Commonwealth and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Ketchmore Kids has been recognized nationally for its community impact, including by being invited to the White House, attending the Cities United 11th Annual Convening in Seattle, and contributing to Newport News winning its first-ever All-America City Award from the National Civic League; and

WHEREAS, Ketchmore Kids will host the 5th Annual Black Excellence Gala on November 29, 2025, at the Virginia Air & Space Center in Hampton to honor local heroes in the community; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their exceptional leadership, dedication, and transformative community service, Ketchmore Kids' founders Chanell Ketchmore and Troy Ketchmore have been awarded honorary doctorate of humanities degrees from Trinity International University of Ambassadors School of Business, a testament to their lifelong commitment to social change and youth empowerment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Ketchmore Kids, Inc., hereby be commended for its continued success in uplifting and transforming communities across the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Chanell Ketchmore and Dr. Troy Ketchmore, founders of Ketchmore Kids, Inc., as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's legacy of service.

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