

No. R-224. House concurrent resolution congratulating BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont on its 50th anniversary.

(H.C.R.170)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City and Shaw of Pittsford

Whereas, after President Lyndon Johnson declared a War on Poverty, Congress enacted the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Pub.L. 88-452) that was intended to achieve a total victory in this battle, and

Whereas, in May of 1965, Vermont become the first State to establish multicounty organizations serving every community statewide, dedicated to fighting the war on poverty, and

Whereas, one of the Vermont antipoverty organizations established in 1965 was BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont (BROCC), serving the communities of Bennington and Rutland counties, and

Whereas, the central mission of BROCC is “to change conditions that either cause poverty or stand in the way of its elimination,” and

Whereas, BROCC establishes voluntary partnerships with families based on the principles of equality, respect, and mutual learning, and

Whereas, the BROCC Board of Directors, as is true of all community action agencies, consists of three distinct constituencies: currently elected public officials; persons selected democratically as representatives of the poor residing in the agency’s area; and representatives of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, and other major interest groups, and

Whereas, BROCC’s services encompass economic development activities, including an innovative micro-business development program; food and nutrition offerings, such as participation in the farm-to-family and food-shelf programs; and community outreach efforts, including fuel crisis assistance that is complemented with energy conservation-related weatherization support, and

Whereas, beyond these broad categories, BROCC operates a thrift store (the Good Cents Store in Rutland) and a nine-unit rental apartment building in Bennington for those in need of affordable housing, and

Whereas, a financing source for BROCC is the revenue it derives from operating Jen’s Motel, a tourist facility in Rutland located near ski areas, and

Whereas, on May 27, 2015, two events will commemorate BROCC’s anniversary, a 50th birthday open house in Bennington County and a 50th birthday bash in Rutland County, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont.