

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-32

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 5, 2019

To honor the outstanding leadership, compassion, and legacy of Marilyn Kresky-Wolff as the first Executive Director of Open Arms Housing in Washington, D.C.

WHEREAS, Open Arms Housing was established in 1997 by a group of social service providers who recognized that housing programs did not work for some of the District's most vulnerable women who had been chronically homeless;

WHEREAS, Marilyn Kresky-Wolff joined Open Arms Housing as its first Executive Director in January 2009 after having previously worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Homelessness Resource Center and the Collaborative Initiative to Help End Chronic Homeless;

WHEREAS, Open Arms Housing's first facility, located in Truxton Circle, began housing residents in 2009 by providing 16 independent efficiency apartments to women in need—a service that was expanded in 2015 with a second building for 4 additional women located in Trinidad and again in 2017 with scattered sites in apartment buildings throughout the District;

WHEREAS, Open Arms Housing currently serves 107 chronically homeless women by providing on-site supportive services to meet individuals' needs and prevent a return to homelessness, with notable success as 94% of these women have remained housed;

WHEREAS, with a kindhearted and generous spirit, Marilyn oversaw all aspects of Open Arms Housing's operations including supervising case managers, securing federal and city funding, engaging in legislative advocacy, identifying board members, enhancing services available to clients, and representing Open Arms Housing within the homeless and mental health communities of Washington, D.C.;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Marilyn's vision to support vulnerable women further led her to co-found Crossing Place, a Woodley House program in the District that provides emergency shelter and crisis stabilization for individuals experiencing acute mental illness;

WHEREAS, Marilyn's impact expands outside of the District as she also steered efforts to provide better mental health and homelessness services in Maryland at the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County and as chairperson of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless; and

WHEREAS, having earned a Masters in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University and a Masters in Social Work from Catholic University of America, Marilyn has applied her expertise in invaluable ways to build safe, secure, and permanent homes for the District's most vulnerable citizens.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Marilyn Kresky-Wolff Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Marilyn Kresky-Wolff for her tireless commitment to serving mentally ill and chronically homeless communities across the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, her exceptional leadership of Open Arms Housing, and her fierce advocacy on behalf of all whom she has served.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.