

EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER FOR CULTURAL INTERCHANGE AND GREENHEART INITIATIVE FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.

[R2009-1058]

WHEREAS, This resolution notes the City of Chicago's longtime support of international education and the promotion of environmental consciousness; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago has long supported the initiatives of The Center for Cultural Interchange and Greenheart which include United States students and adults volunteering with meaningful social and environmental service projects in developing countries and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago would like to recognize the cultural contribution The Center for Cultural Interchange has made to the international community for the successful placement of over 1,500 Americans on educational and volunteer programs to over 30 countries worldwide since its program inception; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago further acknowledges The Center for Cultural Interchange's accomplishment of having placed more than 75,000 international participants in the United States and has touched the lives of as many host families and communities. Participants in these programs acquire an understanding of important elements of a civil society, which includes concepts such as volunteerism, civil means of solutions to societal problems, and an awareness of respect for the rule of law. Participants show the willingness and the commitment to serve as agents for positive change in their countries after they return home, they interact with Americans and generate enduring ties, appreciation for American culture, and teach Americans about the cultures of their home countries; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago commends The Center for Cultural Interchange and Greenheart for its continued contributions in donations, grants and sponsorships of the following organizations:

Trees for the Future

Project Assiss, Costa Rica

United States Department of State's Flex and Yes grants programs for exceptional teens from the former U.S.S.R. and predominantly Muslim nations worldwide

Shaster Foundation, South Africa

Foreign Service Youth Foundation

UNICEF Save the Children projects

; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago supports the opening of Greenheart Shop to promote the health and welfare of people and planet by offering products that are "fair trade and

eco-friendly". Fair trade and eco-friendly products have a significant impact in the lives of artisans throughout the world and help the way in which products are made by calling for more environmental measures in production with the increase of recycled goods on the market; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago acknowledges and supports the efforts The Center for Cultural Interchange and Greenheart initiatives have made not only on many citizens of the City of Chicago, but many citizens throughout these United States in organizing high school exchange, short-term group homestay, internship, volunteer, work and travel, and language study programs in the United States and in over 30 countries around the world. That these kinds of endeavors should remain at the forefront of our country's priorities leading to a world of mutual appreciation of each others cultures and ecological environments; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That we, the Mayor and members the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this ninth day of September, 2009, do hereby support The Center for Cultural Interchange and its Greenheart initiative in promoting international education and environmental awareness leading to the City of Chicago and State of Illinois gaining positive attention on a national and global level; and

Be It Further Resolved, That because of the citizen diplomacy that is fostered through the initiatives of The Center for Cultural Interchange and Greenheart that copies of this resolution be sent to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and

Be It Further Resolved, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Center for Cultural Interchange and Greenheart.

CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO THE PLAZA ON DEWITT ON RECYCLING INITIATIVE.

[R2009-1059]

WHEREAS, The Plaza on DeWitt is a premiere 407-unit full service condominium located on East Chestnut Street in this city's Streeterville neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The residents and management of the Plaza on DeWitt Condominium Association were determined to respond to the challenge of becoming a more environmentally friendly, "greener" building by reducing the volume of their solid waste disposal through more aggressive recycling; and

WHEREAS, On April 1, 2009, after three months of research and negotiation, the Plaza on DeWitt Condominium Association undertook a single-stream recycling program contracted with Allied Waste Haulers; and