

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-50

Sponsored by: Council President Mary K. Brown

A RESOLUTION

HONORING, COMMENDING AND CELEBRATING WENDY NELSON CRANN, CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF W.A.G.S. 4 KIDS, ON HER MANY YEARS OF DEVOTED AND PASSIONATE SERVICE PROVIDING MOBILITY AND AUTISM SERVICE DOGS TO CHILDREN THROUGHOUT NORTHEAST AND CENTRAL OHIO, THANKING HER FOR THE SINCERE DEDICATION AND LOVE SHE HAS DEMONSTRATED TOWARD CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND CONGRATULATING HER ON HER UPCOMING RETIREMENT.

WHEREAS, Working Animals Giving Service for Kids (W.A.G.S. 4 Kids) provides mobility and autism service dogs to children throughout northeast and central Ohio, utilizing an award-winning Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction accredited Cell Dog Training Program, and is headquartered in Berea, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, W.A.G.S. 4 Kids was founded in 2004 by Wendy Nelson Crann, a dog breeder and trainer, and her husband Ed Crann, a special education teacher, when, following an enlightening and inspiring visit to a special education classroom at Berea High School, Mrs. Crann discovered that no program existed to train and place service animals with children under the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, Co-Founder and Executive Director Wendy Crann has, since the first dog placement in 2005, grown and developed W.A.G.S. 4 Kids based upon the needs of local children, the concept of early intervention and an emphasis on personal commitment, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that each service animal is custom suited to the specific needs of a child in order to provide an immediate impact on his or her overall well-being, and a sustained sense of empowerment and engagement throughout their futures; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Mrs. Crann, and with the support of talented trainers, an engaged Board of Directors and a tireless staff, and the financial assistance offered through grants, donations, community partners and sponsorships, W.A.G.S. 4 Kids has placed over 85 dogs, the first being in Strongsville, Ohio, and currently has a three year long waiting list comprised of 32 expectant and eager children patiently waiting to "let the magic begin"; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, W.A.G.S. 4 Kids partnered with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Accredited Apprenticeship Service Dog Training Program, a program based largely on the book, "Dogs Don't Speak English", authored by Mrs. Crann, which professionally educates inmates to become service animal trainers, thus providing them the opportunity to change their own lives while simultaneously contributing to the life changing experiences of local children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Crann, who has, for over 15 years, poured her heart and soul in to her work, adoring each and every dog, child, family and trainer she has had the privilege of assisting, and passionately transforming W.A.G.S. 4 Kids into a thriving and critically imperative organization that aids, assists, involves, engages and transforms the lives of special need children within and around our community, will soon be retiring from her position, leaving behind a legacy worthy of admiration, appreciation and applause.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berea, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor of the City of Berea, the President and all Members of Council, and the Officers of the Administration do hereby honor, commend and celebrate Wendy Nelson Crann, Co-Founder and Executive Director of W.A.G.S. 4 Kids, on her many years of devoted and passionate service providing mobility and autism service dogs to children throughout northeast and central Ohio, thank her for the sincere dedication and love she has demonstrated toward children with special needs and their families, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.


SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the approval of this Resolution were approved in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: June 3, 2019

 President of Council

ATTEST:

 Clerk of Council

APPROVED: June 3, 2019

 Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 Director of Law