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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 184

Offered March 2, 2022

Commending Together We Bake.

Patrons—Ebbin, Barker and Saslaw

WHEREAS, Together We Bake, an organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive workforce training and personal development program to help women achieve sustainable employment and move toward self-sufficiency, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Together We Bake was co-founded by Stephanie Wright and Tricia Sabatini, who drew from the former's background in social work and the latter's exceptional cookie recipe when envisioning their organization; and

WHEREAS, Together We Bake empowers women through its workforce and soft skills training program and counseling from its staff, enabling team members to obtain and maintain employment while learning to manage adversity in ways beneficial to their well-being and stability; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Together We Bake acquired Fruitcycle, a successful business that turns unwanted produce into healthy snacks, increasing its product offerings and distribution channels; and

WHEREAS, Together We Bake continues to expand its operations to better meet demand and to hone its program to improve its efficacy, adding a digital literacy component in 2020; and

WHEREAS, of the 215 women who have graduated from the Together We Bake program, 83 percent have earned national certification from ServSafe, while 70 percent of the alumni from the last two years are currently employed; and

WHEREAS, Together We Bake has been accepted into the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's Restaurant Ready program, enhancing its ability to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, Together We Bake has been recognized by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as a top small nonprofit, while its co-founder, Stephanie Wright, was the recipient of the Women's Empowerment Award from the UNFCU Foundation in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of Together We Bake are the result of the visionary leadership of its founders, the steadfast dedication of its staff, and the unwavering commitment of its team members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Together We Bake on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Together We Bake as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's mission and its contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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