

**2017 -- H 6163**

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LC002572  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE FIFTEEN-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE  
CHILDREN'S FRIEND ORGANIZATION AND PANERA BREAD**

Introduced By: Representatives Lancia, Morgan, Shekarchi, Amore, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: April 27, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Children's Friend, founded in 1834, is Rhode Island's first child welfare  
2 organization. It serves vulnerable children and their families throughout Rhode Island, with an  
3 emphasis on Providence, Pawtucket and Central Falls. It is an innovative organization dedicated  
4 to improving the lives of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children. Children's Friend  
5 accomplishes their goals by efficiently providing flexible and effective services and by  
6 advocating for policies that support and strengthen these children and their families; and

7           WHEREAS, Children's Friend offers a panoply of services for children and families  
8 including clinical services, adoption, foster care, parent education, early intervention, nurse  
9 family visiting for high-risk newborns, Early Head Start, State-funded Pre-K, summer learning  
10 and enrichment, child care, therapeutic child care for children with special needs, and other  
11 specialized programs. In 2015, Children's Friend provided services to over 38,800 individuals and  
12 96 percent of those had incomes below the federal poverty level; and

13           WHEREAS, For the past fifteen years, Panera Bread, and its franchisee, the Howley  
14 Bread Group, have sponsored Children's Friend's annual 5k walk and run to raise money for their  
15 programs and services. In 2015, Panera Bread donated more than \$ 5,700,000 in food and funds  
16 to a variety of community charities. This year's walk/run will be held at Roger Williams Park and  
17 will have hundreds of families, walkers and runners participating. The day will also include live  
18 entertainment, arts and crafts, and delectable food from Panera Bread; now, therefore be it

19           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and

1 Providence Plantations hereby honors and celebrates the fifteen-year partnership between  
2 Children's Friend and Panera Bread. We thank them for their tireless and invaluable service on  
3 behalf of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and their families; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
5 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to David Caprio, President & CEO, Children's  
6 Friend, Bahjat Shariff, Operating Partner, Panera Bread/Howley Bread Group, Wendy Kopp,  
7 Director of Marketing, Panera Bread/Howley Bread Group, Stacy Couto, Vice President of  
8 External Affairs, Children's Friend, and Maryellen O'Mahony, Director of Advancement,  
9 Children's Friend.

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