



- WHEREAS, Shining Hope Farms, founded in 2002 by Paul and Milinda Kirkpatrick, celebrates its 15th Anniversary this year; and,
- WHEREAS, the organization was created in response to the needs in the community to provide therapeutic services in an enriching farm environment to children and adults with disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Down's Syndrome, Developmental Disabilities, Brain Injuries, Hypotonia; and,
- WHEREAS, Shining Hope Farms has three facilities located in Mount Holly, Charlotte and Conover and are the only PATH Intl (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International) Premier Accredited facilities in the Charlotte Metro area offering Hippotherapy, with two Hippotherapy Clinical Specialists – two of only one hundred specialists worldwide; and,
- WHEREAS, Hippotherapy is a physical, occupational, and speech-language therapy treatment strategy that utilizes equine movement as part of an integrated plan of care to engage sensory, neuromotor, and cognitive systems using the horse's 3-dimensional gait, which mimics the human gait or walking pattern more so than anything else natural or man-made, and has resulted in many clients learning to walk; and,
- WHEREAS, Shining Hope's programs aim to reach all children and adults with disabilities, regardless of financial circumstances – more than 36% of their participants are 200% below the current poverty line; and,
- WHEREAS, Shining Hope Farms is also a GuideStar Exchange Gold participant, which is a leading symbol of transparency and accountability among nonprofits; and,
- WHEREAS, of every dollar spent in the last fiscal year, 90 cents went toward Shining Hopes programs, serving a total 134 patients over the course of 4,300 visits.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby commends and congratulates

SHINING HOPE FARMS

upon celebrating its 15th Anniversary and further recognizes them for their many contributions and unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for so many with special needs.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Donald J. Grant, Jr.

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman

To be Adopted the 26th Day of September 2017