



- WHEREAS, in July, 2017, the Mended Hearts Gastonia Chapter 379, was awarded the **President's Cup** as the most outstanding large chapter in the nation at the National Mended Hearts Convention in Nashville, Tennessee; and,
- WHEREAS, founded in 2011 and serving the patients of CaroMont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia, Chapter 379 received the prestigious award for its implementation of national programs, community involvement, member participation and exceptional service to heart patients; and,
- WHEREAS, founded in Massachusetts in 1951 by Dr. Dwight E. Harken, Mended Hearts Inc., is a national and community-based non-profit organization offering peer-to-peer heart patient support groups with more than 300 chapters and satellites nationwide serving nearly 500 hospitals and rehabilitation clinics; and,
- WHEREAS, Chapter 379, with more than 100 members and over 70 accredited active visitors – all of whom are former heart patients or a caregiver of a heart patient – has made nearly 12,000 visits since its organization 2011; and,
- WHEREAS, the Chapter established a strong nursing scholarship program "The Mended Hearts/Gary A. Mims Scholarship" in honor of the late director of the Cardiopulmonary and Cardiac Rehab Department; and,
- WHEREAS, Dr. Dustin Letts, a cardiologist at CaroMont Health was inspired to organize the Gastonia Chapter because of his belief that heart surgery patients need a strong support system that goes far beyond the doctor-patient relationship; and,
- WHEREAS, an accredited Mended Hearts visitor, who has also had a heart event, has a unique opportunity to connect with cardiac patients who have suffered a heart attack, undergone a heart procedure or have been recently diagnosed with a serious heart condition; and,
- WHEREAS, Mended Hearts members dedicate at least one day of the month to counseling patients, promoting education and awareness and helping connect patients and their families to needed resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners congratulates and commends the

### **MENDE HEARTS GASTONIA CHAPTER 379**

upon receiving the **President's Cup** as the most outstanding large chapter in the nation and further expresses gratitude to the Chapter and its members for their commitment to offering heart patients a shoulder to lean on while providing hope and inspiration for heart-healthy lifestyles.

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Allen R. Fraley

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Tom Keigher

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Donald J. Grant, Jr.

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Tracy L. Philbeck

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Bob Hovis

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Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman