

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO DAWN FARM AND ITS DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 4, 2013

WHEREAS, Dawn Farm was founded in 1973 using the combined incomes of two founders, Gary Archie and Jack Scholtus, both recovering alcoholics. Using the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous and some borrowed ideas from Spera, a residential program in Quebec, they rented an old farmhouse on Stony Creek Road in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and began to take in young people struggling with alcohol addiction; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, faced with possible housing development on the Stony Creek parcel, the Farm raised \$118,000 to purchase the 74 acre Farm Property; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Jack Balmer was named President. He has led the organization for the last 30 years; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1980's, Dawn Farm began a significant expansion with the purchase and renovation of residential facilities on Division Street and Huron Street in Ann Arbor. The organization now has more than 12 sites located throughout the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area, including two long-term residential facilities, an 18 bed detox and many other support services; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Dawn Farm staff began an international outreach, traveling to visit treatment programs in Hong Kong, Manila, Kazakhstan, and Japan; and in 1998 Dawn Farm opened its first transitional house at 112 Chapin Street, beginning an outreach that now has more than 170 units and has helped more than 3000 men and women in safe sober housing; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Farm has offered outpatient services and adolescent services, as well as numerous community outreaches. Despite reductions in public funding, Dawn Farms has continued to provide help for more men and women in need; and

WHEREAS, 2013 marks Dawn Farm's 40th anniversary, an appropriate time to recognize the contribution the organization has made in Washtenaw County and beyond.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to Dawn Farms for its dedication and devotion in improving the lives of the citizens of Washtenaw County for over 40 years through compassionate care for the thousands of people who suffer from addictions.

Yousef Rabhi, Chair of the Board
Washtenaw County Commissioner, District 8