

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 548

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Casa Marianella on the grand occasion of the organization's 25th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, Casa Marianella opened its doors in Austin on January 6, 1986; the project was initiated by the Austin Interfaith Task Force for Central America in response to the arrival in Austin of refugees fleeing from Central America; and

**WHEREAS**, The project was named for a human rights lawyer in El Salvador, Marianella Garcia Villas, who was slain in 1983; when the wars in Central America began to resolve in the late 1980s, there were fewer refugees, and the Casa began to provide shelter and services to more immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, Casa Marianella offers beds, food, clothing, and English classes and serves political refugees and immigrants mainly from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Cuba, and Nicaragua; and

**WHEREAS**, The original facility used by Casa Marianella was donated to the organization by Ed Wendler and is located on Gunter Street; in 2003, a new facility, Posada Esperanza, was opened to provide emergency shelter and support to homeless immigrant women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, Each year, Casa Marianella presents the Ed Wendler Award to a person or group in recognition of their outstanding work on current social issues; this year's honoree is the Grassroots Leadership Texas Field Office, which will be recognized at Casa Marianella's annual benefit dinner on March 31, 2011; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby commend all associated with Casa Marianella for their outstanding service to the refugee and immigrant community and extend best wishes to them on the occasion of the organization's 25th anniversary; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of Casa Marianella.

Watson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on March 17, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate