

By: Simmons

H.R. No. 2359

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Chin Community Ministry is making a positive
2 difference in the lives of Lewisville families from western
3 Myanmar; and

4 WHEREAS, In their homeland, members of the Chin ethnic group
5 were subject to persecution because of their Christianity and
6 support for pro-democracy political candidates; many fled
7 oppression by the ruling military junta, walking hundreds of miles
8 to refugee camps in neighboring Thailand; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,500 Chin refugees have settled in
10 Lewisville over the past 15 years, and the city now has the
11 second-largest Chin community in the United States; most of the
12 refugees were impoverished and received little formal education in
13 their native land, but the Chin Community Ministry assists both
14 children and adults in gaining the knowledge, skills, and resources
15 required to make successful transitions; each month, the
16 organization works with about 500 families; and

17 WHEREAS, Guided by executive director Becky Nelson, the Chin
18 Community Ministry unites the efforts of eight local churches and
19 numerous people of faith; it provides newly arrived children with
20 backpacks, clothing, and other supplies so that they can enroll in
21 school immediately, and it coordinates translator services,
22 furniture donations, rent subsidies, referrals for financial aid,
23 medical outreach, transportation, and other assistance needed for
24 the initial settlement of families; and

1 WHEREAS, Additional services offered include family
2 mentoring, ESL and citizenship classes, a summer reading program, a
3 home ownership program, and payment of fees for school activities
4 such as band and athletics; moreover, volunteers engage with Chin
5 residents to help them assimilate and connect with the wider
6 community; and

7 WHEREAS, By identifying and prioritizing the needs of
8 refugees from Myanmar, the Chin Community Ministry is offering
9 vital support and encouragement to new residents striving to
10 achieve the American dream of independence and prosperity; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize the Chin Community Ministry for its
14 contributions and extend to all those associated with the
15 organization sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.