

By: Workman

H.R. No. 588

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Mobile Loaves & Fishes has made a positive impact in
2 Central Texas through its efforts to benefit the homeless; and

3 WHEREAS, In September 1998, Alan Graham and several of his
4 fellow parishioners at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin
5 began delivering meals out of the back of a minivan to people living
6 on the street; the civic-minded group quickly grew, and within
7 months it was able to purchase a more suitable vehicle for catering;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mobile Loaves & Fishes later expanded to San
10 Antonio; Providence, Rhode Island; New Bedford, Massachusetts; and
11 Minneapolis, Minnesota, and its thousands of volunteers have since
12 served more than five million meals; as the reach of its food truck
13 ministry increased, the organization implemented new programs,
14 including Community First! Village, a 27-acre master-planned
15 neighborhood in Austin that provides affordable, permanent housing
16 and a supportive community for the chronically homeless; the
17 development fosters a friendly, familial environment and includes
18 such services and amenities as a medical facility, an outdoor movie
19 theater, walking trails, a marketplace, and common spaces for
20 projects, worship, and meditation; and

21 WHEREAS, Through its Community Works initiative, Mobile
22 Loaves & Fishes offers microenterprise opportunities to those who
23 have experienced homelessness; Community First! residents join
24 with volunteers from across Austin to work as farmers in the Genesis

1 Gardens, which feature three acres of organic vegetables, hundreds
2 of fruit and nut trees, honeybees, dairy goats, chickens, and other
3 animals, as well as a geodome and aquaponics system; in addition,
4 residents can develop their talents and earn income at the
5 Community Art House and Community Forge and Workshop, as well as
6 through participation in the Community Concessions and Catering
7 program; and

8 WHEREAS, While meeting urgent needs for food, clothing, and
9 shelter, Mobile Loaves & Fishes also assists clients in gaining a
10 firmer foothold as contributing members of society, and in so
11 doing, it has strengthened the entire community; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor Alan Graham and Mobile Loaves & Fishes for
15 their tremendous contributions to the Lone Star State and extend to
16 the organization sincere best wishes for continued success with its
17 important work; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Mobile Loaves & Fishes as an expression of high regard
20 by the Texas House of Representatives.