

By: Turner of Dallas

H.R. No. 1388

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For 20 years, Heart House has helped refugee  
2 children thrive in the Vickery Meadow community of Dallas; and

3 WHEREAS, Many refugees reside in Vickery Meadow, and most  
4 come from countries beset by conflict and privation; while learning  
5 how to navigate a new culture, children are often dealing with early  
6 trauma caused by such factors as war, separation from caregivers,  
7 harsh living conditions, and post-migration issues that can include  
8 discrimination and social exclusion; refugee children are  
9 over-represented in special education programs and are typically  
10 three to four years behind their peers academically; and

11 WHEREAS, Heart House offers after-school and summer  
12 programs, following a holistic mental and behavioral health model  
13 that adapts to a child's background and current emotional state;  
14 with its Head, Heart, Hands program, also known as H3, Heart House  
15 makes social-emotional learning a core component in its strategy to  
16 promote healing and growth through educational and therapeutic  
17 experiences customized for the individual; research demonstrates  
18 that this approach increases academic performance and improves  
19 mental health; and

20 WHEREAS, Reflecting the diversity of Vickery Meadow, Heart  
21 House currently serves children who speak nearly 20 different  
22 languages and dialects; it provides students from kindergarten  
23 through eighth grade with space to play, have a meal, and enjoy  
24 music, art, and other enrichment activities; group counseling is

1 available, as well as extra support from a team of mental health  
2 professionals; and

3 WHEREAS, Immigrants contribute immeasurably to the vibrancy  
4 of our communities, and by encouraging the emotional, social, and  
5 cognitive development of refugee children, Heart House is preparing  
6 them to be more happy, resilient, and productive members of  
7 society; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby honor Heart House for 20 years of service to  
10 refugee children in Dallas and extend to all those associated with  
11 this noteworthy organization sincere best wishes for the future;  
12 and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for Heart House as an expression of high regard by the  
15 Texas House of Representatives.