

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-112 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS – MIAMI CHAPTER, FOR ITS VOLUNTEER AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF GRIEVING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Compassionate Friends' mission centers on "providing highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helping others better assist the grieving family." At its core, the organization exists to provide friendship, understanding, and hope to those going through the natural grieving process. Through more than 650 chapters, with locations in all 50 states, and hundreds of volunteers, The Compassionate Friends has been supporting bereaved families after the death of a child for over four decades.

Locally, the Miami Chapter of the Compassionate Friends is led by Ms. Cindy Baum and Ms. Shelley Ellis. Together, they provide countless hours of support, hope, and comfort each month to families in our community grieving the loss of a child. In addition to this, they also provide presentations about their volunteer efforts to groups such as teachers for Miami-Dade homebound students and clinical psychology students. They also work collaboratively with other organizations that assist the bereaved community such as Anthony's Light Foundation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and the J.E.C.Y. Foundation.

This item seeks to recognize The Compassionate Friends – Miami Chapter, and its leaders, Cindy Baum and Shelley Ellis, for their tireless volunteer and advocacy efforts in support grieving families in our community.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-112 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing The Compassionate Friends - Miami Chapter, for its volunteer and advocacy efforts in support of grieving families in our community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-112
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS – MIAMI CHAPTER, FOR ITS VOLUNTEER AND ADVOCACY
EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF GRIEVING FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, The Compassionate Friends provides solace and emotional support to those who suffer the loss of a child; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, led by Cindy Baum and Shelley Ellis, hold monthly support meetings year round and carry out their community outreach efforts via phone to those who need additional support; and

WHEREAS, each year since 2003, The Compassionate Friends – Miami Chapter, has hosted an Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony in Miami for community members who have either suffered the loss of a child, grandchild or sibling or are supporting someone who has; and

WHEREAS, the chapter also participates in various community events in support of other organizations that assist the bereaved community such as Anthony's Light Foundation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and the J.E.C.Y. Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Chapter of The Compassionate Friends routinely conducts presentations about their work, and ways to assist grieving families, to groups ranging from teachers of Miami-Dade homebound students to Clinical Psychology students at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, through its tireless volunteer leaders, Cindy Baum and Shelley Ellis, the Miami Chapter of The Compassionate Friends has provided priceless emotional and spiritual support to countless members of our community who have suffered the loss of a child or supported someone who has;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-112 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing The Compassionate Friends - Miami Chapter, for its volunteer and advocacy efforts in support of grieving families in our community.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this tenth day of December, A.D. 2014

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary