

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, wish to extend our recognition and appreciation to the 20th District Migrant Aid team, namely Amanda Garcia Hess, Karen Wallace Herbert, Mary Kay McDermott, Maureen Kelly, Adriana Trino, Emily Owens, Kristin Idaszak, Linda Glass, Claudia Pesenti, Carlos Rodriguez, Maggie O'Keefe, Justin Thomas, Luca Calabro, Katherine Williams, Liz Riego, Alma Aguado, Carlos Rodriguez and Lauren Niemchick as well as organizations like the Latino Treatment Center; and

WHEREAS, this group of volunteers, in forming a Neighbor Network, has filled a hole left by the City, State, and Federal Governments in caring for-- using their own money, self-fundraising, and organizing to provide basic necessities including but not limited to clothes, food, transportation, showers and medicine-- new arrivals sleeping on the floors of police stations and area shelters from Venezuela, Haiti, Ecuador, Colombia and other countries who, since August 2022, are amongst those in the surge of forced migration Governor Abbott of Texas and other conservative leaders have sent, without any coordination, in order to stress the city's status as a 'Sanctuary City'; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing the basic needs they have: enrolled children in and walked them to neighborhood schools, learned about the US' immigration pathways and helped filled out complicated forms and paperwork, taken families and youth on fields trips across Chicago, organized City Key events, taught new neighbors cultural norms and important English phrases, and much much more.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor, and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered this 1st day of November 2023; do hereby extend our deepest gratitude for showing the heart, courage, savviness and bravery to be the best neighbors Chicago has to offer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Chicago recognizes 20th District Migrant Aid team as true Chicago Champions as the smallest token of the huge responsibilities you have voluntarily shouldered. Our commitment remains to demand that all levels of government to do the just and right things to change the conditions for our new arrivals and existing unhoused Chicagoans alike.

Yours in Service,



Andre Vasquez
Alderman, 40th Ward