

RESOLUTION NO. 26 -

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, desire to recognize and commend The Caring Link and its Founder and President, Kate O’Neal, for compassionate leadership and unwavering commitment to ensuring that children in our community have access to essential resources necessary to learn, grow, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, The Caring Link was founded in 2022 by Hazel Green resident Kate O’Neal, whose vision began in an elementary school hallway where overflowing coats and jackets revealed a greater need, and through a few shelves, a hanging rack, and steadfast dedication, Lynn Fanning Elementary School’s first “Care Closet” was established to provide students with clothing, shoes, school supplies, toiletries, and other essentials to remove barriers to learning; and

WHEREAS, what began as a single Care Closet quickly expanded to additional campuses, including Moores Mill Intermediate School and Meridianville Middle School, extending services to more students across Madison County and demonstrating how one act of compassion can grow into a sustained community movement; and

WHEREAS, initially operating the organization out of her home, Mrs. O’Neal worked diligently to grow The Caring Link until it secured a dedicated headquarters in Hazel Green, Alabama, providing expanded capacity to serve more schools, students, and families in need; and

WHEREAS, in addition to supplying brand new clothing, shoes, school supplies, food items, and hygiene products through on-site Care Closets, The Caring Link also offers enrichment opportunities for under-resourced students, further strengthening academic confidence, dignity, and personal development; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her outstanding humanitarian leadership and community impact, Kate was named the recipient of the 15th Annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award presented by The NASCAR Foundation, earning a \$100,000 donation to support and expand the mission of The Caring Link; and

WHEREAS, The NASCAR Foundation, a nationally recognized charitable organization committed to improving the lives of children, has contributed more than \$50 million to impact over 1.7 million children nationwide since 2006, and its investment in The Caring Link underscores the significance and credibility of the work being accomplished locally; and

WHEREAS, the generosity of donors, volunteers, school administrators, and community partners continues to sustain and strengthen The Caring Link’s efforts, demonstrating that when a community unites around its children, meaningful and lasting change is possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huntsville City Council hereby recognizes and commends The Caring Link and its Founder and President, Kate O’Neal, for their

extraordinary commitment to serving students and families across Madison County, applauds the national recognition received through The NASCAR Foundation, encourages continued community partnership to expand access to essential resources for children, and directs that a copy of this resolution be presented as a symbol of appreciation for their compassionate service and transformative impact on the lives of young people.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama