

Introduced by

Representatives Nathe, Dosch

Senator Kilzer

1 A concurrent resolution recognizing the local and international work of the North
2 Dakota-founded and based charity--The GOD'S CHILD Project--and congratulating this North
3 Dakotan humanitarian effort on its 20th anniversary.

4 **WHEREAS**, The GOD'S CHILD Project, which was established in 1991 by Bismarck native
5 Patrick Atkinson, continues to maintain its worldwide headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, during the past 20 years, The GOD'S CHILD Project has become an
8 internationally recognized humanitarian charitable leader with operating programs in the United
9 States, Guatemala, El Salvador, India, and Malawi, which combined have raised and educated
10 18,000 orphaned and abandoned children over the past two decades and have assisted tens of
11 thousands of women and their dependents to break free from poverty through education, health
12 care, legal assistance, international country-specific legislative action, human rights protection
13 and defense, and community development; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The GOD'S CHILD Project's Bismarck-based subprogram--the "Institute for
15 Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons"--is widely recognized as a foremost national leader in
16 the public education, prevention, detection, interdiction, rescue, and rehabilitation of human
17 trafficking victims, and is considered to be the largest nongovernmental anti-human trafficking
18 program in Central America; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The GOD'S CHILD Project is often the first responder during emergency
20 situations here in North Dakota and around the world, especially in Central America, and over
21 the years has assisted life-threatened victims of Hurricane Mitch, Tropical Storm Stan,
22 Hurricane Katrina, earthquake disasters in Haiti and across Central America, the 2005 famine in
23 Malawi and Mozambique, Missouri River flooding, and Cass County and Lake Sakakawea area
24 tornadoes; in each situation successfully and swiftly developing and channeling North Dakotan,
25 national, and international assistance from a vast cross section of schools, churches,

1 communities, and existing donors and benefactors toward successfully providing tens of
2 thousands of victims with immediate emergency assistance; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The GOD'S CHILD Project provides positive and structured international
4 volunteer experiences for 2,500 individuals and 45 home-building groups each year; and

5 **WHEREAS**, The GOD'S CHILD Project and its founder and chief executive
6 officer--Bismarck native Patrick Atkinson--have received vast news coverage from outlets such
7 as CNN, Fox News, ABC Primetime, ABC 20/20, USA Today, and nearly 200 international
8 recognitions for its worldwide efforts, including the Guatemalan Congressional Medal of Honor,
9 Goodwill Ambassador for Peace for the nation of Guatemala, Knighthood from the Spanish
10 Legion, and, more recently, the 2010 Humanitarian Award from the Bismarck City Human Rights
11 Commission, in each case bringing pride and honor to the great state of North Dakota and upon
12 its citizenry;

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF**
14 **NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

15 That the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly recognizes The GOD'S CHILD Project for its
16 international humanitarian efforts and congratulates The GOD'S CHILD Project in this year of its
17 20th anniversary; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
19 to the Governor of North Dakota and to The GOD'S CHILD Project.