

1 [Proclaiming Martha Ryan Day – May 22, 2010]
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3 **Resolution honoring Martha Ryan, Executive Director of the Homeless Prenatal**
4 **Program, on the 20th anniversary of the Homeless Prenatal Program and proclaiming**
5 **May 22, 2010, as Martha Ryan Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**
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7 WHEREAS, Martha Ryan has offered generations of women and children a way out of
8 poverty; and

9 WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Ms. Ryan worked alongside doctors and nurses in the war-
10 torn refugee camps of Somalia and the Sudan, treating epidemics of measles, meningococcal
11 meningitis, hepatitis and cholera; and,

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Ryan invited local women to be a part of relief efforts; by training
13 female health workers to bring fellow refugees in for vaccinations, prophylactic treatments and
14 education, Ms. Ryan blended culturally appropriate outreach efforts with western medicine in
15 a sensitive and effective manner; and,

16 WHEREAS, As a result, the health workers earned respect and validation that their
17 culture had previously denied them, having considered women "second class citizens,"; and,

18 WHEREAS, After returning to the Bay Area, Ms. Ryan became a volunteer with the
19 Hamilton Family Center, a San Francisco shelter; and,

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Ryan worked as a volunteer nurse practitioner providing prenatal care
21 for poor and homeless pregnant women who did not receive necessary care during their
22 pregnancies, placing their health and the health of their babies at risk; and,

23 WHEREAS, Out of this experience, the Homeless Prenatal Program (HPP) was born;
24 and,
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1 WHEREAS, Ms. Ryan started HPP in 1989 with a part-time staff of three to ensure
2 women had prenatal care to deliver healthy, normal weight and drug free babies; and,

3 WHEREAS, Seventy-two women received prenatal care in the first year; and,

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Ryan quickly realized that prenatal care alone could not ensure a
5 lifetime of health for mothers and babies; and,

6 WHEREAS, The women who came to HPP experienced obstacles to personal and
7 family stability that locked them in an intergenerational cycle of poverty and homelessness;
8 barriers including domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, child abuse, child
9 custody issues, incarceration, and inadequate education, language, technology and job skills;
10 and,

11 WHEREAS, Despite these obstacles and motivated by their pregnancies, HPP clients
12 wanted to deliver a healthy baby and raise a healthy child; and,

13 WHEREAS, Because of Martha Ryan, for two decades now, she has made this
14 possible; and,

15 WHEREAS, Over the past 20 years, HPP evolved from focusing solely on prenatal
16 care for mothers into a Family Resource Center with a broader, more holistic mission –
17 breaking the cycle of childhood poverty; and,

18 WHEREAS, More than 3,000 families access HPP's services each year, with nearly
19 200 families coming to HPP for the first time every month; and,

20 WHEREAS, Today, HPP offers services focused on housing, prenatal and parenting
21 support, child development, family finances and stability, access to technology, domestic
22 violence and substance abuse, family unifications, and emergency support of basic needs;
23 now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 hereby commends Martha Ryan and the Homeless Prenatal Program on its 20th anniversary;
3 and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares May 22, 2010 "Martha
5 Ryan Day" in the City and County of San Francisco.
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****Supervisor Alioto-Pier****
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 100594

Date Passed: May 18, 2010

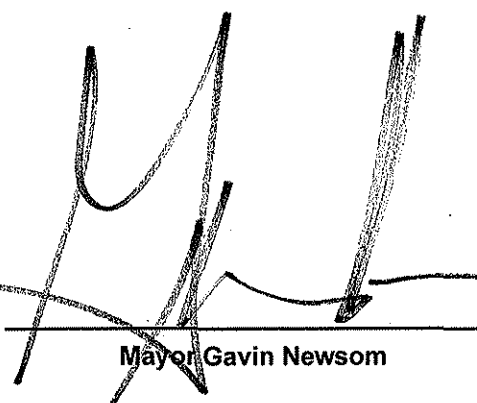
Resolution honoring Martha Ryan, Executive Director of the Homeless Prenatal Program, on the 20th anniversary of the Homeless Prenatal Program and proclaiming May 22, 2010, as Martha Ryan Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

May 18, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

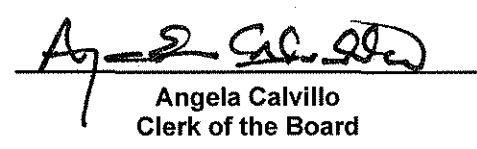
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

File No. 100594

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/18/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Mayor Gavin Newsom



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

5/27/2010
Date Approved