

By: Representative R. Scott Richardson

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE OPEN AVENUES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR
ITS SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE OPEN AVENUES ON ITS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY FOR ITS SERVICE AND
DEDICATION TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Open Avenues has been providing employment opportunities and programs for people with disabilities in Northwest Arkansas since 1975; and

WHEREAS, Open Avenues believes people with disabilities are a vital part of our communities, and their programs are focused on meeting people where they are and empowering them to achieve personal and vocational goals; and

WHEREAS, Open Avenues achieves its goals through prevocational training and job placement via its onsite training center and classroom, community employment, and transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the training center at Open Avenues is a respected example of an employment and learning environment for people with disabilities, and this is made possible by support from business and industrial partners who outsource packaging and assembly work to meet production needs; and



WHEREAS, the classroom program at Open Avenues focuses on building skills based on daily living, socialization, and self-help, and participants are instructed and guided through building these skills in order to prepare for transition into the training center and living more independent lives; and

WHEREAS, the community employment program at Open Avenues offers job placement, supported employment, and employee-first career pathways, and through this program, clients receive a career plan and support tailored to suit their individual needs; and

WHEREAS, transportation is one of the biggest barriers people with disabilities face in achieving community inclusion, so the Open Avenues fleet of buses travels throughout Benton County and parts of Washington County to transport participants between their homes and the Open Avenues facility; and

WHEREAS, Open Avenues serves over one hundred (100) participants daily, and seventy percent (70%) of participants use the Open Avenues fleet of buses,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize Open Avenues for fifty (50) years of service and dedication to people with disabilities in northwest Arkansas.