

2023 RES-385

RECOGNIZING JUSTDANE's 50 YEARS OF IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, JustDane is celebrating 50 years of service from June 2023 through July 2024; and

WHEREAS, JustDane, was founded in 1971, received its non-profit status in 1974, and was originally known as Madison Urban Ministry (MUM); and

WHEREAS, JustDane advocates and works tirelessly for justice, and inclusion and equity in the areas of racism, poverty, access to education, fair and affordable housing, and criminal legal system reform; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, JustDane has successfully incubated 20 initiatives that became separate non-profits, and continues to serve as a fiscal agent and incubator for a variety of local initiatives that help meet the needs of individuals in the community; and

WHEREAS, JustDane's initiatives are shaped by years of experience working to support and advocate with individuals and families impacted by the legal system by providing reentry support for individuals returning home after incarceration through an array of initiatives including: Circles of Support, the Journey Home, The Phoenix Initiative Peer Support group, reentry peer support, and case management; and

WHEREAS, JustDane launched the vocational training program Just Bakery, in 2013, that offers skill building, training certificates, college credit, acceptance into Madison College, and employment placement and retention support for individuals who face chronic barriers to employment including those with a conviction history, mental health and/or substance use challenges, lack of education, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, JustDane recognizes it is vitally important to keep families connected in a positive way when a family member is incarcerated, and addresses the impact of parental incarceration through their Just Connections youth initiative; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 JustDane, responded to a need in the community by opening Healing House, the first medical recuperative shelter in the United States specifically for families that are unhoused and have a member being discharged from the hospital, and, in the 4 years since opening, Healing House has provided 24/7 recuperative medical respite for over 119 families, 327 individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes the 50 years of contributions JustDane has made to the community and the residents of Dane County, and expresses its gratitude and continued support for JustDane and its staff.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Executive Director of JustDane, Linda Ketcham.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2024.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk