Thursday, store owner John Brooks and Nettie trade off delivering groceries to the senior community living at The Good Samaritan Society: Manzano Del Sol Village on 5201 Roma Avenue NE. These are crucial services for many of the seniors there who are unable to drive or take transportation to the grocery stores.

Nettie takes this dedication one step further. Customers will inform her of a sick friend, disabled relative or struggling senior and it’s not long before numbers are exchanged, a grocery list is filed and Nettie is off making deliveries. Nettie has earned a reputation for her selfless actions and genuine, heartfelt appreciation for others. When asked, Nettie will tell you “I want them to be taken care of” and has no qualms about dipping into her free time to ensure her beloved Albuquerque residents receive the services they need.

Nettie’s sentiment towards others extends beyond age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status—it’s universal. I am inspired to see that we have individuals like Nettie in our community and stores like John Brooks that put people first and service our ailing seniors. By volunteering our community and continuing these practices of goodwill and shared responsibility we will achieve a better tomorrow and build a stronger America.

In the 1965 State of the Union, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the War on Poverty in his 1964 State of the Union speech. Sargent Shriver, a key social and political figure, took the lead in assembling a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program that would help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. The brainchild of this panel was Head Start, a program designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with the tools and resources to meet their emotional, social, nutritional, and psychological needs.

In 1965, the Office of Economic Opportunity launched an eight-week program called Project Head Start. Fifty years later, Head Start has served more than 30 million children, becoming an integral component of America’s education system.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. is a community action agency that provides essential services to alleviate poverty levels, promote family stability, and gradually build self-sufficiency. It was established in 1964 and operated as the Community Action Development Committee. The Agency was incorporated in 1965 as the “Lower Chattachoochee Community Action Agency, Inc.” In 1974, when President Gerald Ford signed the Head Start Economic Opportunity and Community Partnership Act, Head Start funding was allocated to local community action agencies such as ESP.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. administers the Early Head Start and Head Start programs within a nine-county area, including Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, and Talbot counties, located in Georgia, and Russell County in Alabama. Each year, ESP serves approximately 1,000 children ages 0–5 from low-income families.

The Head Start program has been essential to the early childhood development and forward progression of many children and their families. Head Start evaluates and works to improve six domains of early childhood development: social/ emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics. Through Head Start, ESP addresses the basic needs of each child and prepares them for entry into kindergarten. ESP also encourages parental involvement by offering services such as family literacy functions and parental input into the curriculum.

In the 2013–2014 program year, children in ESP’s Head Start program made remarkable accomplishments. In the community alone, an average of 96% of children exceeded growth range. There were 505 three- and four-year-olds who were ready to read by the end of the school year.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. has done an outstanding job of administering the Head Start program in the area that it serves. Because of the dedication and commitment of the teachers and the staff, thousands of children have gone on to achieve greater heights in primary, secondary, and higher education than they otherwise would have done. I firmly believe that Head Start’s outreach will continue to help preschool children and their families overcome the cycle of poverty to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia’s Second Congressional District in expressing our profound gratitude to Enrichment Services Program, Inc. and to Head Start for working to improve educational outcomes for preschool children, which not only produces positive effects throughout their lives but also creates a ripple effect of improvement in the communities in which they live.

RECOGNIZING HERNDON-RESTON FISH, INC. AND THE 2015 “STAR FISH” HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. and the 2015 “Star Fish” Honorees. Since 1969, Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. has provided Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help for neighbors in need in Reston and Herndon. FISH meets immediate critical needs for rental assistance, furniture, medical care, and other emergencies. FISH also manages a thrift shop, operates an information and referral service, and offers financial workshops to...