

*Proclamation of the County Board
Of
Kankakee County, Illinois*

RE: Hunger Awareness Day

WHEREAS, food insecurity and hunger are a fact of life for hundreds of thousands of low-income citizens of northern Illinois and can produce physical, mental, and social impairments;

WHEREAS, the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban portions of northern Illinois, touching many families and individuals throughout;

WHEREAS, progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in Kankakee County, certain populations remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food deprivation, including the working poor, the elderly, the homeless, children, and migrant workers;

WHEREAS, the people of Kankakee County have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry people through acts of private generosity and public support programs;

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois provides essential nutritional support to millions of low-income people through the administration of numerous Federal and State food assistance programs, including--

- (1) the Federal Food Stamp Program, as established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);
- (2) child nutrition programs, such as the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program; and
- (3) food donation programs, such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program;

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness of the important public and private partnership role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities provide in assisting hungry and food-insecure people;

WHEREAS, a diverse group of organizations have documented substantial increases in requests for emergency food assistance during the last year with numerous families relying on food banks to secure food; and

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois Food Bank, in partnership with more than 520 food assistance sites, has committed its support to America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network for the Hunger Awareness Campaign to provide additional resources to combat hunger;

WHEREAS, additional donations, funding or volunteer support generated by the nationwide Hunger Awareness Campaign will benefit the 275,008 hungry people in need of food assistance in the 13 counties served by Northern Illinois Food Bank with valuable food resources, including the 12,402 individuals living at or below poverty in Kankakee County and;

WHEREAS, all citizens of northern Illinois can help participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities by donating food and money, volunteering, and supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Kankakee County Board that the fifth day of June, 2007, shall be designated to be Hunger Awareness Day throughout Kankakee County, Illinois.

Adopted and Proclaimed this 8th day of May, 2007.


Karl Kruse, County Board Chairman

ATTEST: 

Bruce Clark, County Clerk