

PROCLAMATION

CURBING HUNGER MONTH JUNE 2009

WHEREAS, the United States enjoys the highest standard of living and the finest quality of life in the world, yet millions of Americans don't have enough to eat; and

WHEREAS, food banks and pantries support over 400,000 New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, a study by the Food Research and Action Center estimates that 292,000 children go to bed hungry every night in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, although annual food drives during the winter holidays help to replenish the shelves of many food banks, supplies are critically short or completely depleted by summer; and

WHEREAS, Somerset County food pantries continue to face growing food shortages similar to other areas of the United States; and

WHEREAS, due to the economic downturn, the Food Bank Network of Somerset County has seen an increase of more than 10 percent in the number of clients it serves; and

WHEREAS, because hunger never takes a vacation, Curbing Hunger Inc. was formed in Somerset County in 1995 to help meet the need to restock the shelves of food banks and pantries during the summer and fall; and

WHEREAS, since its inception and through partnering with the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Somerset County Public Works Department and Somerset County Recycling Division, Curbing Hunger Inc. has collected more than half a million pounds of food in Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Curbing Hunger Inc. has collected and distributed 1.85 million pounds of food statewide, valued at over \$2.5 million dollars; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert S. Ellis, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung of the County of Somerset do hereby proclaim June 2009 as

CURBING HUNGER MONTH IN SOMERSET COUNTY

and urge all residents to support this worthwhile effort by filling the colorful plastic bags distributed by the Somerset County Recycling Division with contributions of canned goods to restock supplies in the food bank and local food pantries. Bags should be left at the curb on residents' regular recycling pickup days from June 1 through June 26, 2009.

ATTEST:

Lauren B. Fellin, Borough Clerk

Albert S. Ellis, Mayor

Date: May 28, 2009