

# Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS** hunger and food insecurity are a reality for far too many of our neighbors; and

**WHEREAS** those who are food insecure are without reliable access to adequate amount of affordable, nutritious food. Food insecurity can affect anyone, whether they are recently unemployed, underemployed, or supporting a large family; and

**WHEREAS** food insecurity is a symptom of broader challenges, such as unemployment, disability, retirement or unforeseen financial challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, those who do not have their basic needs met are further hampered in their path toward self-sufficiency; and

**WHEREAS** the ongoing health crisis has increased food insecurity amongst individuals and families throughout Bergen County and across the country; and

**WHEREAS** in 2020, it was estimated that the County of Bergen experienced a 71% increase in food insecurity, thus overwhelming many local food pantries in short supply; and

**WHEREAS** there are residents in every municipality in Bergen County who receive SNAP benefits, illustrating that this is an issue impacting residents all across Bergen County; and

**WHEREAS** the economic coattails of the pandemic are long, and despite levels of “reopening”, tremendous need still exists within our community; and

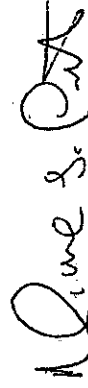
**WHEREAS** the Bergen County Food Security Task Force has been established to support food pantries in Bergen County by increasing the supply of healthy food options, connecting those in need to vital services, and investing in long term infrastructure to build a more resilient pantry network to ensure no one in Bergen County goes hungry; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Mayor Michael J. Putrino hereby proclaims the month of September 2022 as

## HUNGER ACTION MONTH

in the Borough of New Milford, New Jersey, and encourages all New Milford residents to support their local food pantries.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Borough is committed to ending hunger in the community and will spread awareness and increase engagement to solve this problem.



Mayor Michael J. Putrino  
September 12, 2022