

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, more than 12 percent of Virginians struggle to provide enough food for their families; and more than 16 percent of Virginia's children and almost 12 percent of Virginia's elderly are food insecure, meaning they do not have consistent access to adequate food; and

**WHEREAS**, almost 932,000 Virginians live in poverty, including almost 279,000 children; and

**WHEREAS**, there are people in every city and county of Virginia who experience food insecurity, including 11.9 percent of Alexandrians; and

**WHEREAS**, 14.4 percent of Alexandria's children experience food insecurity; and

**WHEREAS**, senior citizens and children are especially vulnerable to going hungry and often unable to secure enough food for themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, living on fixed incomes, senior citizens are often forced to make difficult decisions between food and life-saving medicine when they are unable to afford both; and

**WHEREAS**, when kids are hungry, they struggle to learn, and when kids don't learn, they struggle in life; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the report, *Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria*, the Alexandria faith community launched *Hunger Free Alexandria*; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of *Hunger Free Alexandria* have publicly renewed their existing commitments to relieving food hardship and pledged to engage in new efforts to end hunger in Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, strong collaboration among local emergency food assistance providers along with government support is a powerful tool for reducing hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, for decades, Republicans and Democrats have come together to support federal programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the National School Lunch Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children to provide children with access to free or reduced-price, healthy meals; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that kids who get help from federal anti-hunger programs do better in school and better in life; and

**WHEREAS**, with so many families still scrambling to get back on their feet in this tough economy, investing in ending childhood hunger isn't just a smart investment in our nation's future - it's the right thing to do; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia that ending hunger amongst all individuals should be a priority for Virginia and the City of Alexandria.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby commend the efforts of:

**“GOVERNOR TERRY MCAULIFFE &  
FIRST LADY DOROTHY MCAULIFFE”**

to address childhood hunger in Virginia with the Commonwealth Council on Bridging the Nutritional Divide.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

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**WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk