

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

RESOLUTION #14-15

**TO CONGRATULATE HARVEST HOPE FOOD BANK FOR ITS WORK TO BRING
AWARENESS TO THE ISSUE OF HUNGER IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO
RECOGNIZE “HUNGER AWARENESS AND ACTION MONTH”**

WHEREAS, the month of September has been designated as “Hunger Awareness and Action Month” in order to provide a unified opportunity for communities in South Carolina to focus attention on the persistent problem of domestic hunger and to mobilize to create a movement to help end hunger in our state; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, 14.1 percent of South Carolina households were food insecure; and

WHEREAS, according to a study published by Feeding America, in 2013, 814,560 South Carolinians, including 5,700 residents of Newberry County did not always know where they would find their next meal; and

WHEREAS, hunger is a reality for 17.1 percent of South Carolinians and 15.2 percent of residents of Newberry County; and

WHEREAS, many households in South Carolina experience hunger, and some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for an entire day; and

WHEREAS, research shows that preschool and school-age children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression, and behavioral problems than children receiving a well-balanced diet; and

WHEREAS, food insecure seniors have lower nutrient intakes than food secure seniors, and without proper nutrients, seniors are at increased risk of disability, deteriorated health conditions, decreased resistance to infections, lengthened hospital stays, deteriorated mental health, and being underweight; and

WHEREAS, the costs of other essentials, such as home heating, gasoline, housing, and medical care, have increased significantly, and for families caught in the squeeze between declining wages and rising costs, the food budget becomes a frequent pressure point; and

WHEREAS, utilization of emergency food assistance becomes a way for these individuals and families to keep food on the table while still paying the bills; and

WHEREAS, individuals, charities, businesses, and government all have a role to play in getting food to those in need; and

WHEREAS, food banks (including Harvest Hope Food Bank), soup kitchens, food pantries, faith-based organizations, businesses, and individuals are donating time, raising funds and giving food to help their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Harvest Hope Food Bank, as a member of Feeding America, provides guidance, support and vital food resources to almost six hundred agencies in its twenty county service area, including 4 agencies in NEWBERRY COUNTY and for every dollar of support, providing an average of five (5) meals, plus each hour of volunteer time saves taxpayers \$25.00; and

WHEREAS, Harvest Hope Food Bank, provided services to 11,974 families and 31,013 individuals in NEWBERRY COUNTY in the most recently completed fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, individuals benefiting from the availability of donated food range from infants and toddlers, school-age children and adolescents to single mothers, single fathers, two-parent families, veterans and their families, and seniors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Newberry County Council:

THAT the members of Council, by this resolution, congratulate Harvest Hope Food Bank for its work to bring awareness to the issue of hunger in South Carolina and to recognize September as “Hunger Awareness and Action Month” in Newberry County, South Carolina.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

BY: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

ATTEST: Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council