

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Hunger Action Month provides an opportunity for communities throughout our state and nation to focus attention on the persistent problem of domestic hunger and to organize efforts to help end hunger in America; and
- WHEREAS, studies indicate that thousands of households in the Palmetto State, or nearly one in five South Carolinians, face food insecurity or hunger each day, often skipping meals, eating too little, or going without food for a full day; and
- WHEREAS, according to research, preschool and school-age children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety, 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 physical and mental health, decreased resistance to infections, lengthened hospital stays, and being underweight; and
- WHEREAS, utilization of emergency food assistance becomes a way of life for individuals and families who struggle to keep food on the table when caught in the squeeze between declining wages and the rising costs of essentials including home heating, gasoline, housing, and medical care; and
- WHEREAS, individuals benefitting from the availability of donated food range from infants, toddlers, school-age children, and adolescents to single mothers and fathers, two-parent families, veterans, and seniors; and
- WHEREAS, food banks, including the four member agencies of the South Carolina Food Bank Association that provided over 61 million meals in the most recently completed fiscal year, soup kitchens, food pantries, faith-based organizations, businesses, and individuals help fight hunger by donating time, raising funds, and giving food to assist their neighbors; and
- WHEREAS, as members of Feeding America, the South Carolina Food Bank Association provides guidance, support, and vital food resources to over 1,100 agencies, providing an average of five meals for every dollar of support, saving taxpayers over \$21 with each hour of volunteer service, and working to close the ongoing need for services by leveraging local community partnerships.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2016 as

### HUNGER ACTION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to put an end to hunger and food insecurity in the Palmetto State.



NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA