

# PROCLAMATION

## NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 17-23, 2024

**WHEREAS**, for the past several years the National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness have sponsored National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to promote an end to hunger and homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the proclamation is to educate the public about hunger and homelessness including the shortage of affordable housing for very low-income residents; and to encourage community support for homeless assistance service providers; and

**WHEREAS**, Housing Forward, a local not-for-profit agency, offers support from the onset of a financial or housing crisis to its permanent resolution. The organization prevents homelessness whenever possible, responds to housing crises, and stabilizes people with supportive services and housing; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023 Housing Forward served 2,109 people. Housing Forward assisted 799 individuals from becoming homeless through a total of \$354,000 in direct assistance; assisted 539 individuals in securing independent housing, provided 42,085 nights of shelter for 566 emergency service clients; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oak Park and Housing Forward recognize the community support provided to people who are experiencing homelessness through the efforts of more than 240 volunteers who donated 19,615 meals, more than 3,800 hours of their time, and more than \$230,000 in estimated in-kind donations in 2023; and who, by their presence, ease the depression and isolation that comes with homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023 Beyond Hunger supplied 1,420,448 pounds of food to 15,244 individuals struggling with hunger, reaching 65,055 with multiple visits, including 2,530 residents of Oak Park. Beyond Hunger provided over 18,000 persons with nutrition education, delivered groceries to 518 homebound individuals, and provided 5,511 summer meals to children.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim November 17-23, 2024 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in the Village of Oak Park and encourages all citizens to recognize that there are homeless individuals and families in our community who need the support of their fellow citizens and from the private and public nonprofit agencies that serve them.

**DATED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.

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Vicki Scaman  
Village President

ATTEST:

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Christina M. Waters  
Village Clerk