

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 17–23, 2025

WHEREAS, for the past several years, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the 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 this 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 organizations that provide homeless prevention and assistance services; and

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

WHEREAS, in 2025, Housing Forward served 2,003 people. Housing Forward prevented homelessness for 252 individuals through \$196,000 in direct assistance; helped 916 individuals secure independent housing; and provided 59,238 nights of shelter for 483 emergency service clients; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park and Housing Forward recognize the essential community support provided by more than 320 volunteers who donated over 26,780 meals, 4,400 hours of service, and an estimated \$150,000 in in-kind donations in 2025—volunteers whose compassion and presence help ease the isolation that accompanies homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Beyond Hunger, a local not-for-profit organization, works to reduce hunger by providing nutritious food, offering nutrition education, and connecting individuals and families to resources that support long-term food security; and

WHEREAS, Beyond Hunger supplied 1,620,660 pounds of food to 15,937 individuals in 2025, reaching more than 67,800 people through multiple visits, including 2,416 Oak Park residents. Beyond Hunger provided nutrition education to over 16,000 individuals, delivered groceries to 487 homebound residents, and distributed 6,744 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, 2025**, as **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week** in the Village of Oak Park and encourage all citizens to recognize that there are individuals and families in our community who need the support of their neighbors and from the public and private nonprofit agencies that serve them.

DATED this 18th day of November 2025.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk