

PROCLAIMING DECEMBER 2023 AS CAPITAL REGION FOOD PROGRAM MONTH

WHEREAS, the Capital Region Food Program is an all volunteer, non-profit organization established in 1974 because of the grave problem of hunger in the Greater Concord area; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Region Food Program marks its fiftieth (50) consecutive year in providing food for the hungry through its Holiday Project; and

WHEREAS, refinements in the project are a perpetual undertaking; originally in 1974 the baskets provided enough food for the Christmas holidays alone and evolved into providing enough food for the holiday meal plus up to three weeks of additional meals. With the changing landscape, the Capital Region Food Program made another refinement launching its Holiday Voucher Pilot Project in 2022; recipients were be able to select the food items most appropriate for their family being mindful of their needs including but not limited to food sensitivities, gluten free, low sodium, low fat, vegetarian, vegan, and other dietary restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the program has expanded operations to include year-round distribution to area food pantries and soup kitchens supporting their great work, which is accomplished by purchasing and distributing, at no cost to the participating agencies, enough food to provide over 5,900 meals per month; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 caused the CRFP to reengineer its Holiday Food Basket Project and its evolution into the new Holiday Project. The Capital Region Food Program has continuously adhered to and aligned with its values, which include collaboration, cooperation, responsibility, mindfulness, safety, and community consideration. In keeping with these values, the 2023 Holiday Project continues to take proactive steps to maximize safety and helping those in need, while still accomplishing its mission of assisting individuals and families in need; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this all volunteer organization, community-wide effort, has resulted in over 3600 tons of food having been distributed to the food insecure in Concord and surrounding 17 communities over the past 49 years with items purchased valued in excess of \$3,600,000. In addition, CRFP has redistributed donated food items with a value estimated at \$1,675,000; the combined value of purchased and donated food exceeds \$5,275,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the month of December be designated Capital Region Food Program Month in the City of Concord; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our community be encouraged to participate, contribute, and support the Capital Region Food Program now and throughout the year.