

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and six member food banks are dedicated to reducing hunger through a unified effort to provide hunger relief, education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS In 2014, Arkansas's six Feeding America Food Banks distributed more than 44 million pounds of food to food insecure individuals and families throughout the state. That amount is equivalent to 36.6 million meals; and

WHEREAS: More than 584,000 people in Arkansas live without a steady source of food and more than 200,000 of them are children. Over 21.2 percent of Arkansas's population is considered to have very low food insecurity and Arkansas has the highest rate of senior food insecurity in the nation at 26.1 percent; and

WHEREAS: Despite remarkable progress in providing nutritious food to Arkansas's children where the live, learn and play through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's child nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program, Arkansas still has one of the highest percentage rates of childhood hunger in the nation at 28.4 percent; and

WHEREAS: September has been designated Hunter Action Month, and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Texarkana Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfolk, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith, in partnership with numerous advocates, are committed to ending hunger and empowering Arkansans with nutrition education and skills to increase their ability to provide nutritious food on a budget; and

WHEREAS: No child, senior citizen, man or woman should be faced with a lack of food. Developmental and cognitive deficits, educational deficits, recurring illnesses in child and senior populations, lack of productivity and negative long-term social and economic consequences are among the damaging results of food insecurity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 2015, as

**ARKANSAS HUNGER ACTION MONTH**

and September 22, 2015, as

**ACTING OUT AGAINST HUNGER DAY**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens and Arkansas businesses to support the Arkansas Foodbank and its members, to promote awareness about hunger and to strive to create a community where no one has to go hungry.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2015.



Attest:

*Mark Martin*

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State

*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor