

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: More than seventeen percent of all Arkansans live below the federal poverty line and cannot afford to provide enough food for their families; and

WHEREAS: September has been designated Hunger Action Month, and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, in partnership with numerous hunger-relief providers and hunger-relief advocates, has committed its support to ending hunger and providing hope for those in need; and

WHEREAS: In partnership with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and the State of Arkansas, the Society of Saint Andrew has helped to develop the Arkansas Gleaning Network, which supplies thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to hungry Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: Coordinating with local farmers last year to collect excess food that remained in the fields after harvest, groups of volunteers gathered nearly 150,000 pounds of corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peaches, cabbage, and snap peas. This food was, in turn, distributed to food banks and pantries around the region, giving them the rare resource of fresh produce to provide to Arkansas families; and

WHEREAS: An estimated 291,500 citizens of our State receive emergency food assistance from the Alliance network, which helped provide more than 18-million pounds of food and grocery products to Arkansans in need in 2008; and

WHEREAS: No child, senior citizen, man, or woman deserves to go without food. Cognitive-learning deficits and failure-to-thrive syndrome in children, recurring illnesses among seniors, lack of productivity and absences from work, and long-term social and economic impact are among the damaging effects of food deprivation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, 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 2009, as

**ARKANSAS HUNGER ACTION MONTH**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens and Arkansas businesses to support the Alliance and its members, to promote awareness about hunger, and to strive to create hunger-free communities across Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2009.



  
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MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

  
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CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE