

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION by the honorable Mayor of the Great City of Muscatine declaring April 10-16, 2016 as Muscatine Volunteer Week.

WHEREAS, Our President has stated that, "America's story has been marked by the service of volunteers. Generations of selfless individuals from all walks of life have served each other and our City, each person dedicated to making tomorrow better than today. They exemplify the basic American idea that we can change things, make things better and solve problems when we work together;" and

WHEREAS, volunteers are the lifeblood of our schools and shelters, hospitals and hotlines, and faith-based and community groups. From mentoring at-risk youth and caring for older Americans to supporting our veterans and military families and rebuilding after disasters, these everyday heroes make a real and lasting impact on the lives of millions of women, children and men across the globe; and

WHEREAS, last year, nearly 64.5 million Americans, 26.5% of the adult population, gave of themselves through 7.9 billion hours of service. Their compassion is a testament to the generosity of the America spirit. In difficult times, Americans are coming together – tackling our challenges instead of ignoring them and renewing the principle that we are our brother's and sister's keeper; and

WHEREAS, in the Great State of Iowa in 2015, 807,930 volunteers, 38% of the Adult population, gave of themselves through 69.7 million hours of service with a value of \$1.6 billion of service contributed to fellow Iowans, ranking us 6th among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in this Great City of Muscatine, approximately 8200 Muskie volunteers gave 834,760 hours of service with an estimated value of \$19.26 million to the Muscatine community, using the National Value of Volunteer Time; and

WHEREAS, many Iowan groups are making it easier for women, children and men of all ages to find volunteer opportunities or create their own projects where they see a need; and

WHEREAS, volunteering and civic engagement are the cornerstone of a strong City; and

WHEREAS, many of our neighbors face hardship, we need volunteers now more than ever. Service opportunities tap the energy and ingenuity of our greatest resource – the people of Muscatine – to improve our neighborhoods and city; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to encourage, empower, celebrate and honor the volunteers in our City; and

WHEREAS, organizations, such as the Miss Muscatine Scholarship Program, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, 4-H, United Way of Muscatine, and Rebuilding Together Muscatine, are examples of many local groups that share their time and talents to the benefit of Service; and

WHEREAS, we will serve those in need in the city of Muscatine during Muscatine Volunteer Week; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Mayor Diana Broderson of the Great City of Muscatine, so hereby proclaim April 10 – 16, 2016 as

Muscatine Volunteer Week

in the City of Muscatine, and urge all our citizens to support the efforts of local organizations and service groups that encourage volunteers and service to others and we celebrate the profound impact of volunteers and encourage all Muscatine citizens to discover their own power to make a difference.

Diana Broderson, Mayor