

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Unadilla Food Pantry upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2016 Commitment to Community Award by the Unadilla Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Unadilla Food Pantry upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2016 Commitment to Community Award by the Unadilla Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its Annual Dinner on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at the Unadilla First United Methodist Church, Unadilla, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Unadilla Community Food Pantry was established in the 1970s by a selfless group of Unadilla-based ministers; in its early days, the pantry fed roughly 20 families; today, the food pantry has grown to be an incorporated organization serving between 100 and 200 area families per month; and

WHEREAS, The Unadilla Community Food Pantry is open on Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 11:00-12:30 to families living in the 13849 zip code; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five years, the number of families served has risen by 20 percent, resulting in a move from the rear quarters of the Unadilla First Methodist Church to the first floor of the neighboring parsonage; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, the Unadilla Community Food Pantry is able to purchase food for 16 cents per pound, maximizing the reach of every dollar donated; every month, the pantry purchases an average of 5,000 pounds of food; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, free USDA food is available to the Unadilla Food Pantry, and it gladly accepts donations from food drives, stores like the Great American and area farmers who have seasonal excess produce to share; and

WHEREAS, Several of the 27 dedicated pantry volunteers make bimonthly trips to Oneonta, New York, on food retrieval runs; Huff's Ice Cream provides a driver and truck for one of those two trips, and people who own pickup trucks accomplish the other; in addition, a weekly trip is also made to St. Mary's in Oneonta where things like bread, produce and other foodstuffs from Oneonta merchants are picked up; and

WHEREAS, The Unadilla Community Food Pantry receives funding from grants, donations and fundraising initiatives in and around the community; together with the food purchased and donated, clients may visit the pantry once a month and receive enough food to last for three days, taking into consideration the number of people in a given household; and

WHEREAS, At the helm of this evolving operation are co-Directors Claudia Jenkins and Joann Rickard; Claudia, a retired social studies teacher of more than 30 years in the Sidney district, began serving the pantry in 2011; Joann has held numerous positions within her community including substitute teacher, RIF coordinator, PTO officer, Cub Scout den leader, Sunday School teacher and childcare provider; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Jenkins and Joann Rickard are assisted by Gloria Hall, who holds the title of Treasurer, Howard Hall serves as volunteer coordinator, and Bob Conley is in charge of inventory control; other

volunteers serve clients, pick up food deliveries, unload deliveries, stock shelves, and clean; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Unadilla Food Pantry upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2016 Commitment to Community Award by the Unadilla Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Unadilla Food Pantry.