



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

Bambi L. Markham, has served as Chief Executive Officer of the West Ohio Food Bank for more than 19 years; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Markham took on the challenge of leading the West Ohio Food Bank while it was still in its infancy and has been responsible for leading it through much growth and expansion of its services to the residents of the Food Bank's 11 county service area in Western Ohio; and

WHEREAS: During her tenure, Ms. Markham has been able to grow the food distribution from 750,000 lbs. annually to over 6.5 million lbs of food and grocery items in 2011. This was made possible through staff development, food and financial donor cultivation, and linkage with regional, state and national food distribution programs; and

WHEREAS: Through her efforts Ms. Markham was able to complete compliance requirements that allowed the Food Bank to become a member of the National Association of Feeding America, which enables the receipt of more support and a better variety of food. In addition, Ms. Markham was able to qualify the Food Bank for USDA foods for all 11 counties, implement a Senior Program, and Commodity Supplemental Food Program for impoverished senior citizens. Locally, under her guidance, a "Backpack Program" for children has been implemented in 5 counties; and

WHEREAS: On the State level, Ms. Markham has been a leader in working with the Ohio Association of 2nd Harvest Food Banks to gain the support of the legislature in the fight against hunger in Ohio. This resulted in the Ohio Food Banks being included in the state budget with an allocation to feed hungry Ohioans. Ms. Markham was also a driver in securing the support of Ohio farmers to start an Agricultural Surplus Program for the state, which has resulted in a variety of produce being distributed to our food challenged population; and

WHEREAS: One of the greatest challenges Ms. Markham successfully faced was to raise funds to make a down payment and secure funding to purchase facilities that could adequately support the growth of the West Ohio Food Bank. Ms. Markham was able to meet that challenge and the organization was able to purchase the current facility on East Kibby Street for warehouse, cooler, and freezer space to allow 20 million lbs of food distribution annually.

NOW THEREFORE: I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim August 1, 2012 as

BAMBI L. MARKHAM DAY

in the City of Lima, and I ask all citizens to extend their sincere appreciation to Ms. Markham for her dedicated service to the Lima community and Congratulate her on her retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 31st day of July 2012.



Signature of David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio.