



# Tompkins County Legislature

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## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Friendship Donations Network, (FDN) began in 1988 with a simple hope from the founder, Sara Pines: to not waste food that might otherwise be thrown out by local supermarkets, and

WHEREAS, in 2010 Sara Pines assembled a volunteer board of directors to continue the work she had been doing for 22 years, officially incorporated the organization as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with a part time coordinator being hired to manage its daily operations, and

WHEREAS, the Friendship Donations Network is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> year of continuous operation in 2023, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Friendship Donations Network is to “rescue food, reducing hunger,” for Tompkins county residents and some neighboring communities in need, and

WHEREAS, FDN provides food donations to hunger relief programs that serve more than 2,000 people a week, and divert over 1,000 lbs. of good food from local landfill every day, and

WHEREAS, every year, FDN’s grassroots network of almost 200 volunteers rescue about 500,000 pounds of fresh food, and

WHEREAS, food for FDN’s redistribution network comes from dozens of donors (supermarkets, farmers, restaurants, caterers, colleges, community members) and is shared with people in partnership with over 50 food distribution partners including free meal programs, food pantries, low-income housing communities, community organizations, and grassroots distribution assisting families and individuals experiencing food insecurity throughout the Finger Lakes region, and

WHEREAS, FDN’s people-powered approach to and impact on community food rescue and distribution systems includes a commitment to simplicity of operations while extending full dignity to every person encountered, and

WHEREAS, local residents, businesses and foundations are the entire support of FDN’s activities via their time and their financial donations, and

WHEREAS, FDN educates consumers about preparing, storing and using food to make nutritious meals and reducing food waste that contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature proclaims September 14, 2023 as,

## FRIENDSHIP DONATIONS NETWORK DAY

in Tompkins County, and further Tompkins County recognizes the Friendship Donations Network for their 35 Years of leadership and vision in food rescue to serve those in need across our community. As well as for serving as a model for other food rescue and redistribution organizations across the region, and most of all, for meeting human needs with care, dignity, and in a highly leveraged efficiency.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Shawna Black, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



  
Shawna Black, Chairwoman  
Tompkins County Legislature