

Proclamation

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
AS PART OF
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
APRIL 16 – 22, 2023**

WHEREAS Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County, a unit of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers, The State University and a Division within the Human Services Department provides research- based education and technical assistance on issues that affect people’s lives in agriculture, the environment and natural resource management, food safety, nutrition and health, and youth development and

WHEREAS Volunteers have been the cornerstone of RCE’s successful programming, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, learning new outreach technology and spending their time, talents, and extensive knowledge and experience to mentor our youth, identify invasive pests and weeds, advise on protecting our land and water resources, and improve the health and enhance the overall quality of life for Somerset County’s residents, and

WHEREAS 350 RCE Volunteers are full and part-time workers, retirees, young adults; men and women of all ages and backgrounds, who provided **108,134 hours of volunteer service in 2022, valued at an estimated \$3,502,460.20** and

WHEREAS 4-H volunteers meet the needs of youth in person, hybrid, or virtually for club meetings, educational workshops, short term programs, camps, and fun activities to continue to create the sense of belonging our youth need, especially in the present climate. 4-H volunteers serve as club leaders, 4-H Association members, 4-H Fair managers, judges, mentors, trainers, educators and more, and

WHEREAS Rutgers Master Gardener and Environmental Steward volunteers in ANR continued successful programming including online and in-person outreach to deliver assistance to residents with responses to nearly 371 inquiries on home lawn, garden, insect and landscape questions via the Garden Helpline, and utilized e-Newsletters and monthly webinars to remain engaged with the public, one another, and the overall program, and

WHEREAS Family and Community Health Sciences volunteers assist at community classes and events and serve on the FCHS Advisory Council to promote healthy eating and food preparation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Somerset County does hereby proclaim **April 16– 22, 2023** as ***National Volunteer Week*** in Somerset County and thanks all the volunteers who support the work of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Visit their website, <http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu>.