



PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Prudential Spirit of Community Recognition Day Matthew Erickson

- WHEREAS:** As effective government may be in serving the needs of its citizens, the soul of our city and its vitality as a place to live and work depend on the relationship of families, friends and neighbors, and
- WHEREAS:** Strengthening these bonds is not as much in the hands of institutions or governments as it is in the hearts of the people – individuals who volunteer to help people of all ages, races and religions cope with illnesses, hardships and barriers, adjust to social changes and fulfill their potential. These volunteers are the unsung heroes of our society, and
- WHEREAS:** Matthew Erickson, recently named as one of our state’s top honorees in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, exemplifies the value of volunteer community service, and is a role model to other youth as well as adults in our community, and
- WHEREAS:** Matthew co-founded “HelpLight NJ,” a volunteer effort that has raised money to replace 82,000 incandescent light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs for 13,000 families. Students at 19 high schools now participate in Matthew’s program, and
- WHEREAS:** A surprising number of volunteers in the community across the nation are like Matthew, a student contributing time without expectation of reward, other than the gratification that comes from helping others. Some of these young people work in established groups; others seek new and unique ways to help others on their own, and
- WHEREAS:** The Middletown Township Committee wishes to take this opportunity to commend Matthew Erickson, one of our Prudential Spirit of Community Award honorees, for his volunteer contribution to others and our community. Now
- THEREFORE:** In honor of this achievement, I, Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger and the Middletown Township Committee proclaim April 19, 2010 as Prudential Spirit of Community Recognition Day in Middletown Township, New Jersey.

Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, Ph.D.