



# PROCLAMATION

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### Prudential Spirit of Community Recognition Day Erika Rech

- 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:** Erika Rech, 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:** Erika Rech and Michael Ruane have raised more than \$100,000 to help breast cancer patients undergoing financial hardship pay for wigs, prostheses, medication, doctor visits, groceries, and many other items. The two cousins have sold T-shirts, solicited donations from local businesses, collected coins in front of local supermarkets, and organized a black tie gala and auction to raise their funds, and
- WHEREAS:** A surprising number of volunteers in the community across the nation are like Erika, 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 Erika Rech, a Prudential Spirit of Community Award honoree and Red Cross Jersey Coast Chapter Hometown Hero, for her volunteer contributions 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.

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Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, Ph.D.