



# PROCLAMATION

## *OFFICE OF THE MAYOR*

### **Police Officer Kenneth F. Tietjen Memorial Foundation**

**WHEREAS:** The Kenneth F. Tietjen Memorial Foundation was created in November 2001 to honor the memory of Port Authority Police Officer Kenneth F. Tietjen who sacrificed his life to help others during the World Trade Center tragedy on September 11, 2001, and

**WHEREAS:** The Tietjens, who reside in Middletown, would "adopt" a needy family every holiday season. They would provide food, clothes, and toys to help make one family's Christmas a happy one. Kenny, who was 31 when he died, always happily took on the task of providing bicycles for the children, and

**WHEREAS:** Family and friends wanted to find a positive way to keep his memory alive and lessen the huge hole that they would feel by spending Christmas without him. Through generous donations from friends, family, community groups and businesses, fellow Port Authority police officers, and wonderful strangers, the Foundation was able to deliver 11 new bicycles to needy children that very first year, and

**WHEREAS** Today, the main goal of the Foundation is to provide aid to underprivileged children in Monmouth County and throughout New Jersey. One-hundred percent of all donations go directly to the children because the Foundation is run by volunteers, and the family pays all administrative costs. With the community's continued support, the Foundation has grown enormously. They were able to help more than 600 children in 2007, and

**WHEREAS:** The Foundation is formally working with the Middletown Social Services Department for the first time to bring holiday cheer to 150 Middletown families this year, and

**NOW**

**THEREFORE:** Be it proclaimed on Monday, November 17, 2008 that I, Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, and the Middletown Township Committee, wish to take this opportunity to commend the Tietjen family for creating this invaluable community organization to honor Kenneth F. Tietjen's memory. We urge the community to support the Tietjens in their efforts to bring a smile to hundreds of children every holiday season.

*Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, Ph.D.*