



PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Breast Friends Forever Erika Rech

WHEREAS: In October 2006 cousins Erika Rech and Mike Ruane found out that one of their family members was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. Six months later, a second family member was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer, and

WHEREAS: Throughout their relatives' diagnosis and treatment, Erika and Mike witnessed firsthand the devastating effect that cancer can have on a family. They vowed to form an organization to help families navigate through a cancer diagnosis by providing resources and emotional and financial support, and

WHEREAS: With help from their family and \$500 from each of their personal saving accounts, Erika and Mike, who were then high school freshman, formed the non-profit organization Breast Friends Forever, and

WHEREAS: Erika and Mike, who are now juniors in high school, are still hard at work helping families and raising money for this invaluable charity. With the help of family and friends, they hold monthly bracelet, candy, and t-shirt sales at Mary Mother of God Church in New Monmouth and special fundraisers including ones at the Blue Tulip, Holy Family Flea Market and local sporting events, and

WHEREAS: Donations are used to provide anything that a family may need to go through this difficult time including back-to-school clothes and supplies, gas cards and gift cards to grocery stores. They also make contact with social workers at treatment centers for referrals, and

WHEREAS: Breast Friends Forever will hold their first annual gala, 'An Evening of Hope, Inspiration and Courage' on March 7, 2009 at Jacques Reception Center in Middletown. The gala will be held in honor of Dr. Peter Hetzler, a local reconstructive plastic surgeon, and

WHEREAS: The Mayor and Township Committee wish to take this opportunity to encourage the community to support Breast Friends Forever by participating in their fundraisers and the upcoming gala; now

THEREFORE Be it proclaimed on Monday, December 15, 2008 that I, Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, and the Middletown Township Committee do hereby commend Erika Rech for offering families much-needed support during this difficult time. We are very proud that one of Middletown's youth has stepped forward to make a difference in the community. Best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, Ph.D.