

# Proclamation

## **POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, January is Poverty Awareness Month, a month-long initiative to raise awareness and call attention to the growth of poverty in America; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, there were 37.2 million people in a status of poverty - approximately 3.3 million more than in 2019 - after five straight years of decline; and

**WHEREAS**, poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter and can be linked to lack of education, physical disabilities, lack of access to health care, unemployment, and the absence of social services; and

**WHEREAS**, many local non-profits are dedicated to helping the impoverished through programs and services concentrated on addressing the root sources of poverty and working to create sound policy frameworks locally and nationally that will help lift our fellow neighbors, family members, and friends out of poverty so they can live independent, sustainable lives and contribute to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, to quote Nelson Mandela, "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life."


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JEFF GEE, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY**, on behalf of the City Council and the people of Redwood City, do hereby proclaim January 2024 as **Poverty in America Awareness Month** and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of poverty and how it impacts our nation, state, county and communities.

Date: January 8, 2024



  
Jeff Gee, Mayor

  
Lissette Espinosa-Garnica, Vice Mayor

  
Alicia C. Aguirre, Council Member

  
Kala Eakin, Council Member

  
Diane Howard, Council Member

  
Elmer Martinez Saballos, Council Member

  
Chris Sturken, Council Member