

**Before the Board of County Commissioners  
Martin County, Florida**

**A Proclamation**

**Recognizing Food Safety and Food Insecurity Awareness Week in  
Martin County, Florida**

- Whereas,** Seeds for Changes is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was founded by Vera Howe, Miss Martin County's Teen 2026, to support individuals and families facing food insecurity while educating communities on the importance of safe food practices and sustainable habits; and
- Whereas,** food insecurity continues to affect individuals and families within our community and beyond, limiting consistent access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food; and
- Whereas,** proper food safety practices are essential to protecting public health, preventing foodborne illness and ensuring that all people can consume food safely and confidently; and
- Whereas,** small, meaningful actions such as meal planning, reducing food waste and donating to local food pantries can significantly strengthen community support systems and reduce hunger; and
- Whereas,** the A.R.T.A. principle, Advocate, Redistribute, Teach and Action, serves as a guiding framework to inspire community members to raise awareness, share resources, educate others and actively combat food insecurity.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that the week of May 19 is Food Safety and Food Insecurity Awareness Week in Martin County, Florida. The Board encourages all residents to support the mission of Seeds for Changes by advocating for those in need, redistributing resources to reduce food waste, teaching safe food practices and taking meaningful action to combat hunger in our community. Let us work together to ensure that every individual has access to safe, nutritious food and the knowledge to sustain a healthier future for all.

**Adopted this Fifth Day of May 2026**

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE  
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

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SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

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EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIRMAN

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EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

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STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

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J. BLAKE CAPPS, COMMISSIONER