



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New Yorkers recognize that the future depends on today's youth who will become tomorrow's leaders and that teaching children to give back to society through community service is an important concept which benefits our entire world and helps them grow into conscientious and productive citizens; and

**Whereas**, as part of the "I Live New York" initiative, our State is committed to providing volunteerism, civic engagement and community service opportunities for youth and citizens within schools, colleges and communities; and

**Whereas**, young people have a great potential to contribute to many areas of daily life, and service-learning encourages them to use what they have been taught in the classroom to resolve real-life educational, human service, environmental, public safety, and disaster preparedness and response issues; and

**Whereas**, through service-learning, students gain a deeper appreciation for the ideals of democracy and civic responsibility, while they grow into contributing and connected citizens – and more active members of their own community – through the service they perform; and

**Whereas**, service-learning also helps young people develop their critical thinking, problem solving, and social and leadership skills, while building positive character development and improving student engagement, which is a key factor in promoting academic achievement; and

**Whereas**, we recognize the thousands of New York State youths, teachers, parents, community members and organizations, government agencies, businesses and industries, religious organizations, school districts and colleges and universities that support and are involved in service-learning and those who have contributed millions of hours of service to their communities; and

**Whereas**, October 6-12, 2008 has been designated as the first-ever *National Learn and Serve Challenge Week* to recognize "service-learning as a solution," and New York joins to support the goals of this observance and applauds the service-learning efforts of many who improve the quality of life in our State and Nation;

**Now, Therefore**, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2008 as

## LEARN AND SERVE CHALLENGE WEEK

in the Empire State.



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth day of September in the year two thousand eight.

*David A. Paterson*

Governor

*[Signature]*

Secretary to the Governor