STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, throughout our history Illinois residents have stepped up to meet national challenges such as poverty reduction, disaster relief, environmental stewardship, and veteran assistance by volunteering in their communities; and,*

***WHEREAS**, service represents an enduring aspect of citizenship and choosing to serve one's community is something that all citizens can do; and,*

***WHEREAS**, the national service programs AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Social Innovation Fund, have proven to be highly effective ways to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in meeting a wide range of community needs; and,*

***WHEREAS**, each year AmeriCorps, including AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps National, and AmeriCorps NCCC, provides opportunities for 80,000 citizens across the nation, including approximately 3,600 in Illinois, to give back in an intensive way to our communities, our state, and our country; and,*

***WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps in Illinois last year recruited 53,600 volunteers and raised more than $4,709,200 in cash and in-kind resources; and,*

***WHEREAS**, each year Senior Corps, including Foster Grandparents Program, Senior Companions Program, and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, places more than 14,000 volunteers in communities throughout Illinois; and,*

***WHEREAS**, these Senior Corps members have helped over 7,000 Illinois children to read, assisted over 18,000 seniors stay in their homes, supported over 5800 veterans, served over 8300 family members of veterans, served over 200 children with special needs and supported over 2,000 organizations to better serve their communities here in Illinois; and,*

***WHEREAS**, over 3.1 million Senior Corps hours contributed each year is valued at over $70 million; and,*

***WHEREAS**, the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) mobilizes public and private resources to grow promising, innovative community-based solutions that have evidence of compelling impact in three areas of priority need: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development; and,*

***WHEREAS**, the Social Innovation Fund has awarded $177.6 million in grants to intermediaries since 2010 yielding another $423 million in private and other nonfederal commitments; and,*

***WHEREAS**, Illinois is one of 37 states long with the District of Columbia which have received SIF sub grants totaling more than $1,340,000 distributed to 11 organizations in the state; and,*

***WHEREAS**, the 2nd annual Mayor's Day of Recognition of National Service on Tuesday, April 1st, when mayors across the nation will highlight the national service programs in their communities, is an opportune time to rally around service as a strategy to meet community needs; and,*

***THEREFORE**, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 23 - 29 as **NATIONAL SERVICE WEEK** in Illinois, and urge citizens to salute Senior Corps volunteers, Social Innovation Fund grantees, AmeriCorps members, and AmeriCorps alumni for their service and to find ways to give back to their communities.*

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this FIFTH *day of* MARCH*, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and* FOURTEEN*, and of the State of Illinois, one hundred and* NINETY-SIXTH*.*

Jesse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR