

*WHEREAS, volunteers represent a vital and integral force in the Alexandria community and provide needed services to the community that may otherwise be undelivered; and*

*WHEREAS, citizens of Alexandria have responded to the September 11th attacks with an increased interest in volunteerism and the importance of giving back to the community; and*

*WHEREAS, the contribution and presence of volunteers in Alexandria is the reason why critical programs are sustained, such as the Office on Women's Domestic Violence Program, companion activities with the elderly and disabled persons, court advocates to abused children, the services of Alexandria's homeless shelters, reading programs for school children, and countless others; and*

*WHEREAS, youth volunteerism, such as through the Youth Service Coalition, has been shown to reduce teen pregnancy, and provides a valuable tool to increase self-esteem, heighten awareness of community needs, and develop a sense of responsibility; and*

*WHEREAS, alternative community service for court-referred individuals allows people to give back to their community, while saving taxpayers the cost of incarceration; and*

*WHEREAS, the Community Work Experience Program helps welfare recipients gain valuable work experience through volunteer placements while benefiting the community; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau provides clearinghouse services to assist both individuals and businesses in search of meaningful volunteer opportunities and agencies who are able to carry out their services because of volunteers;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of April 21 through 27, 2002, as:*

**"ALEXANDRIA VOLUNTEER WEEK"**

*and in the spirit of giving back to our community, taking responsibility for helping those in need and working to improve the quality of life in Alexandria, we acknowledge and recognize the many individuals who contributed countless hours of volunteer work in Alexandria in 2001 and thank them for their valuable contributions.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2002.*

**KERRY J. DONLEY**      **MAYOR**  
*On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC      City Clerk