

# Proclamation



from

Senator John J. Bonacic

*Honoring Sara-Elizabeth Clark upon receiving the Outstanding Youth  
in Philanthropy Award by the Association of Fundraising  
Professionals Mid Hudson Valley Chapter*

*Whereas*, The youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation, are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

*Whereas*, Sara-Elizabeth Clark is an outstanding young girl who has dedicated her time to breaking the stigma of epilepsy, and consequently has been recognized for her efforts by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid Hudson Valley Chapter; The Association of Fundraising Professionals is an organization that empowers individuals to help make a difference through philanthropy and provides cost-effective education, networking and professional resources close to home; and

*Whereas*, Epilepsy affects two percent of the population and approximately one in fifty children; Sara-Elizabeth Clark was diagnosed with Idiopathic Benign Childhood Epilepsy when she was sixteen months old, and growing up she always felt as if she was treated differently by her family and friends; and

*Whereas*, When she was ten years old, Sara decided to help others suffering with epilepsy and similar disorders to help dispel the fear and misconceptions people have, and the stigma associated with them; at the same time, Sara began organizing the "Sara's Annual Walk for Epilepsy" by working with local agencies that serve people with epilepsy and SUNY New Paltz to organize and promote the event; the five walks Sara has organized have collectively raised approximately \$60,000, all of which is used to support those with epilepsy; approximately \$30,000 has gone to support the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York; and

*Whereas*, Through Sara's walk, she is able to not only raise funds for epilepsy, but promotes awareness and education in order to break the stigma that surrounds epilepsy; Sara believes that her disorder will not define her identity as a person; Sara has spoken to children from all over the country, has participated in regional print and television ads, and is the subject of the book, Being Sara, by local author Chris Passudetti; and

*Whereas*, Sara-Elizabeth Clark has exhibited tireless enthusiasm in the community and in raising funds and awareness about epilepsy; now therefore, I, John J. Bonacic, Senator of the Forty-second State Senate District of the State of New York, do hereby

*Proclaim*, That recognition be extolled to Sara-Elizabeth Clark upon receiving the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mid Hudson Valley Chapter; and I do hereby further

*Proclaim*, That a copy of this *Proclamation* be transmitted to Sara-Elizabeth Clark.

Now, in Witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand on this, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, the year two thousand ten.



Senator John J. Bonacic  
42nd Senate District

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
November 10, 2010