



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is a national children's literacy organization, providing children in need with access to and choice of high-quality books and enriching literacy resources and aims to transform lives through the power of books;

**WHEREAS**, RIF was founded in 1966 in Washington, DC and since then has distributed more than 412 million new, free books to 40 million children in need in communities nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, two-thirds of children living in poverty own no books and sixty-five percent of fourth graders read at or below the basic level;

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 alone, RIF distributed more than 80,820 books to children in need in the State of Tennessee and;

**WHEREAS**, RIF is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we take this opportunity to honor this organization's contributions to the families of our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2016 as

*Reading Is Fundamental Day*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighteenth day of April, 2016.



*Bill Haslam*

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Governor

*Jo Vagstad*

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Secretary of State