



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our state; and

**WHEREAS**, in Tennessee there are more than 5,600 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family; and

**WHEREAS**, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, foster, kinship and adoptive families who open their homes and hearts and support children whose families are in crisis play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect, thereby helping launch young people into successful adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and

**WHEREAS**, we honor the numerous individuals and organizations throughout Tennessee who work diligently to serve the needs of children in foster care, as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2012 as

## FOSTER CARE MONTH

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 first day of May, 2012.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Bill Haslam', written over a horizontal line.

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Lee Hargett', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State