



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, each day, Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) employees and partners work toward the collective goal of Building a Thriving Tennessee through the Two-Generation (2Gen) Approach to creating generational cycles of success for children and their families; and

WHEREAS, poverty can impact a family's overall well-being and its ability to thrive economically, educationally, and socially. Roughly 16 percent of Tennesseans are living in poverty, and, of that group, nearly 22 percent are children; and

WHEREAS, the 2Gen approach, adopted by TDHS in 2015, embraces partnerships that build on collaborations with parents, non-profit organizations, community, federal, national, state, and local partners to promote 2Gen practices in order to address intergenerational poverty; and

WHEREAS, while Tennessee's economy has improved and has seen unprecedented low unemployment rates, many Tennesseans still face poverty. In fact, Tennessee currently ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation for citizens living below the poverty line, making Tennessee one of the most hard-stricken states in the country; and

WHEREAS, adopting the 2Gen approach has allowed TDHS to further build on families' strengths and focus on providing intentional whole-family supports, services, and opportunities in the areas of education, economic supports, social capital, and health and well-being to help create generational cycles of success; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this proclamation is celebrating Tennessee's progress toward addressing poverty using the 2Gen approach to advance whole-family success; and

WHEREAS, TDHS partnered with national thought-leader and partner Ascend at the Aspen Institute to commemorate Tennessee's 2Gen journey through a nationally released case study; and

WHEREAS, we believe that when we have an intentional focus on meaningfully improving the lives of each and every Tennessean we interact with, we are helping to build a stronger household, neighborhood, community, and state – a stronger and more thriving Tennessee;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 1, 2018 as

## *"Building A Thriving Tennessee Through 2Gen" 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 twenty-second day of May, 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Haslam".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen W. Varnagel".

Secretary of State