



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Behavioral health is an essential part of health and one's overall wellness, and prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from substance use; and,

**WHEREAS**, Recognizing addiction is a chronic illness that involves significant physical changes in brain function, and research shows that addiction treatment is as effective as treatment for other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and hypertension; and

**WHEREAS**, Alcohol and drug disorders are a major public health problem that affect people of all ages, race, ethnic backgrounds, and communities and cost the American society more than \$300 billion each year through treatment; and,

**WHEREAS**, Addiction counselors promote excellence in care by promoting the highest quality and most up-to-date, science based services to their clients, families, and communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, It is necessary to educate society on drug and alcohol disorders in order to decrease the stigmatism placed on the individuals in addiction and their families; and,

**WHEREAS**, thousands of people across the United States are living happy, healthy, and productive lives in recovery; and,

**WHEREAS**, To encourage more people find a path to recovery, the U.S. Department of Mental Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the White House office of National Drug Control Policy the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the East Tennessee Association of Alcohol and Drug, Abuse Counselors invite all residents to participate in Join the Voices for Recovery: It's Worth It;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Bill Haslam, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2012 as

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY 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 19th day of July, 2012.



Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State