



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, young people will be the stewards of our communities, nation and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character; and

WHEREAS, concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the nation; and

WHEREAS, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions and civic groups; and

WHEREAS, the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens, and the public good benefits when young people learn that good character counts in personal relationships, in school and in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character; and

WHEREAS, character development is primarily an obligation of families, though efforts by faith communities, schools, and youth, civic and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character; and

WHEREAS, in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society; and

WHEREAS, the Aspen Declaration states that "effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society" trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship and these "Six Pillars of Character" transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences; and

WHEREAS, the Aspen Declaration states that "The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character";

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 16-22, 2011 as

CHARACTER COUNTS! WEEK



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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 27th day of September, 2011.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Lee Hargett in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State