



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to fight polio, and funded the development of two vaccines still in use today that virtually eliminated the crippling disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes in 1958, having achieved its initial mission, shifted its attention from polio to the prevention of birth defects, and through federal and state advocacy led the way in establishing a nationwide network of birth defects monitoring programs and research centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes has undertaken decades of groundbreaking research in maternal and child health, which has led to the discovery of lifesaving products and tests such as surfactant therapy for premature infants and tests to identify life-threatening birth defects; and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes was a pioneer in the support of newborn screening, urging Congress to pass and fund the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which in 2008 established national guidelines on the conditions states should include in newborn programs, and through state advocacy ensured that every state screens all newborns for that core set of conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes, in 2003, launched the Prematurity Campaign to address the crisis of premature birth and help families have full-term, healthy babies, and authored the Premature Research Expansion and Education Act for Mothers (PREEMIE) Act, which Congress enacted in 2006 to expand research, education, and services to fight premature births; and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes has set a national goal of reducing preterm birth to 9.6% in every state by 2020, which will result in a healthier start in life for tens of thousands of infants; and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes sponsors numerous programs to support healthy pregnancies and infants, such as its work to prevent early elective deliveries and the NICU Family Support program; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby declare the year 2013 as

*March of Dimes 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year*

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 sixth day of March, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Hergett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

