



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience; and

**WHEREAS**, annually, more than 30,000 lives are lost, and it is estimated that for every suicide there is an average of 25 attempted suicides; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the third-leading cause of death among people from the age of 15 to 24 in Tennessee, and the ninth-leading cause of death overall in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness of this heartbreaking problem is the key to preventing further loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk can be reduced through education and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is a national leader in the effort to prevent suicide, being one of the first states to develop a strategy to prevent suicide across the lifespan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans including survivors working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is also committed to excellence in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention,

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

## *Suicide Prevention 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 nineteenth day of August, 2013.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Reger*

Secretary of State