



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership created National Mentoring Month; and

WHEREAS, the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to mentor, and encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality in mentoring into their efforts; and

WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person discover personal strength and achieve their potential through a structured and trusting relationship; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces young people to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy; and

WHEREAS, research shows that youth who participate in mentoring relationships experience a multitude of positive benefits including being more engaged in school, finishing high school and continuing on to college; and

WHEREAS, youth development experts agree that mentoring is critical to the social, emotional and cognitive development of youth, helping them navigate the path to adulthood more successfully; and

WHEREAS, mentors help young people set career goals and use their personal contacts to help young people meet industry professionals and find jobs; and

WHEREAS, despite these benefits, there is a mentoring gap, a gap between the availability of mentoring programs and the number of young people in need of a mentor; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the men and women who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, and those who help our young people find inner strength and reach their full potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2014 as

Mentoring 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 sixteenth day of December, 2013.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Wright

Secretary of State