



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, an ethical, well-trained and dedicated direct support professional workforce is often the bridge to inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, empathy, genuine understanding, and acceptance of persons with disabilities are fostered in communities through the work of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, people with disabilities are often able to secure and maintain gainful employment with the support of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, families of people with disabilities are supported through the efforts and assistance of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, the lives of children and adults with disabilities are enriched through the work of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, those without family support often find friendship and love from direct support professionals, who embrace the uniqueness of every individual; and

**WHEREAS**, many Tennessee citizens with disabilities are able to live self-directed lives through the support of direct support professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, 27,000 direct support professionals live and work in Tennessee and are deserving of recognition as valued members of our society for the essential supports they provide to people with disabilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 11-17, 2011 as

## **DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL APRECIATION WEEK**

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 1st day of September, 2011.

Governor

Secretary of State