



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, in 1904, the Big Brothers Big Sisters' national mentoring movement began in New York City;

**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 mentoring into their efforts;

**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;

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

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

**WHEREAS**, research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college, 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team, and 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities;

**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;

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

**WHEREAS**, mentoring is a proven cost-effective investment: for every \$1 invested in mentoring, there is a \$3 return to society;

**WHEREAS**, all of the above listed benefits serve to link youth to economic opportunity while also strengthening the fiber of our communities;

**WHEREAS**, despite these benefits, one in three youth will reach age 19 without a mentor – constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2015 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 first day of December, 2014.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Lee Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

