



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the primary mission of the Social Work profession is to enhance well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society; and

**WHEREAS**, Social Work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States with more than 640,000 members of the profession; and

**WHEREAS**, Social Workers work in all areas of our society to improve happiness, health and prosperity, including in government, schools, universities, social service agencies, communities, the military and mental health and health care facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, many Social Workers assist people in overcoming depression, anxiety, substance abuse and other disorders so they can lead more fulfilling lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employs more than 12,000 professional Social Workers and Social Workers help bolster our nation's security by providing support to active duty military personnel, veterans and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of child, family and school Social Workers across the country provide assistance to protect children and improve the social and psychological functioning of children and their families;

**WHEREAS**, Social Workers help children find loving homes and create new families through adoption, and work with families and schools to help ensure that students reach their full academic and personal potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Social Workers work with older adults and their families to improve their quality of life and ability to live independently as long as possible and get access to quality mental health and health care; and

**WHEREAS**, Social Workers daily embody this year's Social Work Month theme, "Forging Solutions Out of Challenges," by helping individuals, communities and the larger society tackle and solve issues that confront them; and

**WHEREAS**, Social Workers have made exceptional contributions in improving the well-being of the citizens of Tennessee;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2016 as

*Social Work 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 eighteenth day of February, 2016.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Ward*

Secretary of State