STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Families are Arkansas's most valuable resource for caring for loved ones who have extraordinary needs such as developmental and physical disabilities, mental and emotional disorders, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and extreme medical needs; and

WHEREAS: Parents and caregivers of individuals with extraordinary needs spend much of their time with direct personal care which is physically and emotionally stressful; and

WHEREAS: Supports from the extended family and community are not always available or adequately trained to care for children and adults with extraordinary needs; and

WHEREAS: Respite is the act of providing physical and emotional relief to families who are responsible for day-to-day care of loved ones with extraordinary needs; and

WHEREAS: Respite care in its many forms strengthens the ability of families and caregivers to meet the challenging and intensive demands of ongoing care and to cope in times of family crisis; and

WHEREAS: Respite care services can reduce the costs society must bear in dealing with the results of abuse and neglect, and these services can help keep families out of already overburdened and expensive social welfare and criminal justice systems;

WHEREAS: Having periodic respite care enables many families and caregivers to be more active participants in their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 29, 2015, as

ARKANSAS LIFESPAN RESPITE AWARENESS DAY

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2015.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State