

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** young people will be the stewards of our community, nation and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character; and
- WHEREAS,** concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens, and the public good benefits when young people learn that character counts in personal relationships, in school and in the workplace; and
- WHEREAS,** scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character; and
- WHEREAS,** in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society; and
- WHEREAS,** the Aspen Declaration states that “The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character”;
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 16-22, 2011 as

**CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, A.D. 2011.



/S/  
Peter Shumlin  
Governor