



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**YOUNG MOTHERS WITH BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY**

**2017**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, young mothers with breast cancer are an often overlooked and underserved group of breast cancer patients; and

**WHEREAS**, a diagnosis of breast cancer can be devastating to any woman, but is most unexpected and unusually challenging to young mothers and their families whose unique medical, social, emotional, and financial needs frequently go unrecognized by the medical and social services in charge of their care; and

**WHEREAS**, young women who develop breast cancer have their initial symptoms frequently ignored or explained away so that when officially diagnosed, they are often in the advanced III or IV stages; and

**WHEREAS**, young mothers attempting to manage the emotional and physical toil that accompany the symptoms and treatment of breast cancer require special consideration and support as they navigate the impact of their illness, on themselves as well as their children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, Genevieve's Helping Hands, Inc., a 501(c)(3), was established to help meet the needs of young mothers with breast cancer in the name of Genevieve Sounia, who died of breast cancer just before August 18, 2013, her 35<sup>th</sup> birthday; this organization promotes healthy living in five areas – faith, family, friends, food, and fitness – and provides small stay grants that can enhance a young mother's recovery from treatment of any type of breast cancer that is first diagnosed at age 40 or younger; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina recognizes the need to create public awareness for young mothers with breast cancer and to generate support for organizations already working to alleviate the unique struggles they face; and

**WHEREAS**, this awareness day brings attention to the extraordinary obstacles a young mother with breast cancer faces, fighting her disease while nurturing her children, and offers support to all young women and families in this or a similar position;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 18, 2017, as "YOUNG MOTHERS WITH BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this ninth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.