# Hampton Proclamation

AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, WE ARE GATHERED HERE AT THE HISTORIC EMANCIPATION OAK TREE, A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF FREEDOM AND HOPE, TO PROCLAIM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE REVITALIZATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES AND TO INVITE OUR FELLOW AMERICANS TO JOIN US IN THIS MIGHTY ENDEAVOR

- To honor our elders and ancestors who through their legacy of strong marriages, parenting, and families allow and inspire us to articulate this vision as we stand here today,
- To save future generations from the destructive consequences of failed marriages and broken homes,
- To work together to fan the embers of hope in men and women for life-long, healthy marriage, and
- To equip parents to lead strong families and raise hopeful and socially responsible children.

## **TO THESE ENDS**

We, Religious Leaders, invite all Houses of Faith to join us in the pursuit of effective ministry to marriages, families, and parents and to prepare our youth for healthy relationships and life-long marriage. and family — profoundly impacts the productivity and vitality of our business enterprises and henceforth are determined to pursue practices and benefits that will encourage the relational wellness of our employees.

We, Youth Leaders, recognizing in ourselves and in our peers' generation a yearning for authentic relationships and lasting love, determine to renew in our generation the vision and hope for life-long healthy marriage and the legacy of family.

## **AS ONE**

- We declare our support for city leaders in their responsibility to bring the revitalization of marriage and family to their local communities.
- We, Governmental Leaders, invite colleagues and citizens from every political party to engage in renewed efforts to pursue laws and public policies that promote the well-being of marriages and families.
- We, Scholars and Educators, invite our colleagues to join us in on-going research on healthy relationships, healthy marriages and effective parenting; and to ever improving curriculum for America's classrooms, board rooms, living rooms, and Houses of Faith.
- We, Media Leaders, invite artists, filmmakers, entertainers, journalists, and writers to join us in acknowledging the power of our craft in shaping cultural values and to shift our talents to reinforce the values of commitment, faithfulness, and self-sacrifice in the pursuit of love, family, and legacy.
- We, Leaders in Commerce and Business, invite the corporate community to join us in recognizing that relational wellness — personal, professional, marriage,

#### **SIGNATORIES**

### **KEEPING IN MIND THAT WE**

- Do not desire to see anyone pressured to remain in unsafe and abusive homes, and
- Acknowledge that we champion this cause not only out of our successes but out of our personal experiences of failure and loss.

## WE HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS

- To renew America's vision and hope for the institution of marriage,
- To increase marital satisfaction,
- To increase the involvement of fathers and mothers in the lives of their children,
- To increase parenting effectiveness,
- To decrease the out-of-wedlock birth rate, and
- To reduce the divorce rate.



Hampton University, Hampton, VA 23668