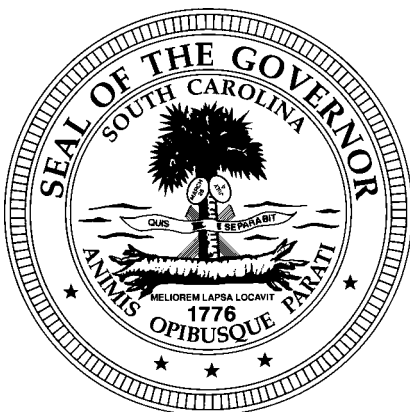


State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

- WHEREAS,** our children are the strength of our great state and the hope for a better tomorrow, and we must do everything possible to ensure that all children have the love, support and security they need to grow and prosper; and
- WHEREAS,** adoption is the permanency plan for approximately 1,200 children in South Carolina, providing stable and nurturing environments that will allow these children to achieve their full potential; and
- WHEREAS,** many of these children have special needs because they have physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, because they need to be placed as a sibling group, or because they are school-age; and
- WHEREAS,** families able and willing to adopt children with special needs are at the forefront of fulfilling our vital responsibility to one of our most vulnerable populations; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2002 observance of "Adoption Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for citizens throughout the Palmetto State to honor adoptive families for their positive contributions to the well-being of our children and to offer community and public support for sustaining the adoptions of special needs children waiting for adoptive parents.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to consider becoming adoptive parents for the future well-being of the many children waiting for permanent families.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina