

**WHEREAS,** substance use disorders are a serious and treatable public health problem affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds and having huge medical, societal, and economic costs; and

**WHEREAS,** stigma and discrimination can present obstacles to those with substance abuse disorders who need access to treatment facilities as well as those who wish to reestablish their place in the community; and

**WHEREAS,** educating our residents about the many ways substance use disorders affect children, families, and communities can help foster a better understanding of these disorders and the stigma associated with them; and

**WHEREAS,** 2009 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, and this year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Learn, Together We Heal," emphasizes the need to use all available resources to educate people about the disease of addiction, seek help, and heal.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2009 as

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the achievement of those who seek to overcome the stigma and secure the benefits of substance abuse treatment and recovery.