

WHEREAS, because our young people are the future stewards of our communities, state, and nation, we must educate them to be involved, caring citizens of good character; and

WHEREAS, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families, communities, and schools to develop a foundation of principles upon which to make sound decisions when faced with difficult choices; and

WHEREAS, in this dynamic time of unparalleled opportunity and possibility, our children will encounter a variety of new challenges that will test the strength of their character and convictions; and

WHEREAS, working together to teach our young people that character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace helps ensure that they have the necessary core values, including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, to secure future success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 18 - 24, 2009, as

CHARACTER COUNTS! WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of teaching our children good character traits.