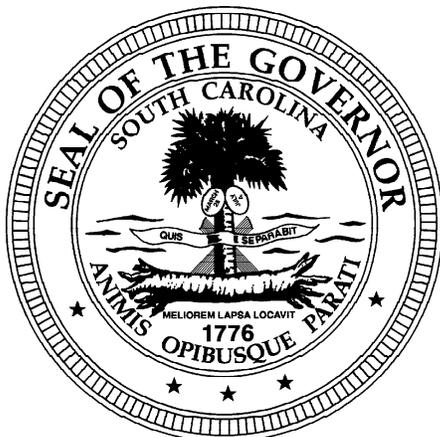


*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** because children are our hope for the future and the promise of a better tomorrow, we must pledge to give all our children the love, support, encouragement, and opportunity they need to grow into healthy, responsible adults; and
- WHEREAS,** America's foster parents are at the forefront of fulfilling our vital responsibility to our country's most vulnerable children – the thousands of young people who, for a variety of reasons, can no longer live securely in their own homes; and
- WHEREAS,** foster families donate their valuable time to ensure that they are trained with the proper skills to address the needs of the foster child, while allowing themselves to be monitored to ensure the highest quality care; and
- WHEREAS,** through their abiding commitment to caring for foster children and their unwavering compassion for those in need, hundreds of foster parents in South Carolina help more than 5,000 foster children throughout the Palmetto State cope with their difficulties and achieve their full potential by providing a stable and nurturing environment; and
- WHEREAS,** foster families throughout the Palmetto State serve as positive role models for the children in their care, opening their homes and hearts with love to offer guidance and a safe environment in which to grow and learn; and
- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Foster Parent Association's Annual Conference on March 2 – 3, 2001, provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of the Palmetto State to honor foster families throughout the state as they look forward to the national observance of "Foster Care Month"; and
- WHEREAS,** the value of foster care as a temporary service that provides children and youth with a safe, stable and nurturing foster family until permanence can be achieved warrants public recognition of the vital role that foster families have in helping children and families heal and reconnect and in helping launch children to successful adulthood.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2001, as

**FOSTER CARE MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize and honor foster families throughout South Carolina and the nation for their many contributions to the well-being of our children and to work together to raise awareness of the needs of foster families and foster children throughout the Palmetto State.



*Jim Hodges*

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**