

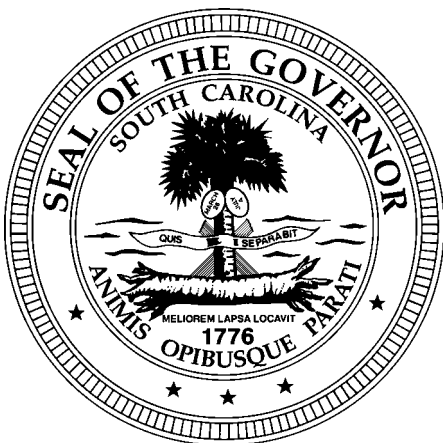
*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- 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 1,325 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 2001 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, 2001, 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 in the Palmetto State waiting for permanent families.



*Jim Hodges*

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