

**WHEREAS,** breastfeeding promotes early maternal and infant bonding and encourages the development of communication skills between mother and child, helping to build trust and a sense of security; and

**WHEREAS,** breastfeeding is an important component of infant nutrition, contributing significantly to early health, growth and development by providing babies with an ideal balance of nutrients and a high degree of natural immunity against infection and allergies; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other health care professionals and organizations recognize breastfeeding as a preferred method of feeding for a majority of infants; and

**WHEREAS,** research shows that breastfed babies have fewer ear and gastrointestinal infections and are less likely to develop respiratory infections, allergies, childhood diabetes and childhood lymphoma; and

**WHEREAS,** women who breastfeed reduce their chances of developing premenopausal breast cancer, cervical cancer, osteoporosis and iron deficiency anemia.

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

## **BREASTFEEDING MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive impact of breastfeeding on the health and well-being of mothers and infants across the Palmetto State.