

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** arthritis includes more than 100 diseases and conditions which affect the joints, connective tissues or supporting structures of the body, typically causing pain, stiffness, and swelling in or around joints and frequently leading to limitations in self-care, work, recreation, and other activities; and
- WHEREAS,** affecting approximately one million adults in South Carolina and an estimated 52 million adults across the nation, arthritis is one of the most common chronic conditions and is the leading cause of disability in the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** scientific studies show that physical activity can delay the onset of disability for people with arthritis and produce numerous positive health benefits including reduction in pain and improvements in function, mood, and energy level; and
- WHEREAS,** raising awareness of the prevention and available treatments of arthritis, such as self-management and physical activity programs, helps those affected by arthritis become more active, learn how to manage their health, and take control of their lives; and
- WHEREAS,** during the 2013 observance of Arthritis Awareness Month, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Arthritis Foundation will encourage people to stay active, maintain a healthy weight, and avoid injuries as measures to prevent arthritis.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as**

ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the prevention and self-management of arthritis.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nikki R. Haley'.

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA