

**WHEREAS,** because our children are our greatest treasure, we must do everything possible to ensure that they have the love and attention they need to grow and develop; and

**WHEREAS,** healthy families, which include fathers who are actively involved as positive role models in their children's lives, provide the foundation for a safe, secure, and productive future; and

**WHEREAS,** children who have little or no contact with their fathers are more likely to do poorly or drop out of school, have lower self-esteem, turn to drugs and gangs, and end up in prison; and

**WHEREAS,** this year marks the 100th anniversary of the first formal Father's Day Celebration in the United States and calls attention to the unique contributions fathers make to the development of their children.

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

## **RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to support the active and positive participation of fathers in their children's lives.