

**WHEREAS,** every child deserves the chance to live and grow in a loving, caring and supportive home; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 1,750 children in South Carolina, including young people who are free to be adopted as well as those who still must clear the legal process, are in need of families to provide the stable and nurturing environments that will help them achieve their full potential; and

**WHEREAS,** many of these children have special needs, including physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, age, or a necessity to be placed as a sibling group, that complicate placement in a permanent home; and

**WHEREAS,** families able and willing to adopt children with special needs are at the forefront of fulfilling our responsibility to one of our most vulnerable populations; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2009 observance of Adoption Awareness Month honors adoptive families for their positive contributions to the well-being of our children and our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2009 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 waiting for permanent families.