

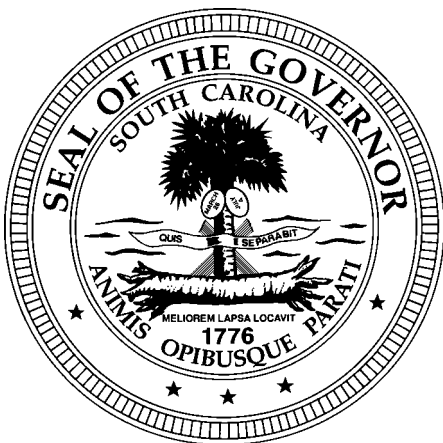
*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** a congenital heart defect occurs when the heart or blood vessels near the heart do not develop normally before birth; and
- WHEREAS,** congenital heart defects are among the most common birth defects, affecting approximately 40,000 infants in the United States each year; and
- WHEREAS,** tragically, many children born with congenital heart defects do not survive due to the severity of the defect, lack of early detection, scarcity of donor hearts, or failure of the medical intervention used; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2002 celebration of "A Day For Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day" provides a unique opportunity for families of children with congenital and acquired heart disease, adults with congenital heart defects, and cardiovascular professionals to join together to raise public awareness of the positive impact of early diagnosis and intervention on the survival and quality of life of children born with congenital heart defects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 14, 2002, as

**A DAY FOR HEARTS:  
CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about congenital heart defects and to recognize the courage and strength of the children and their families who are born with congenital heart defects.



*Jim Hodges*

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