

WHEREAS, the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol and nicotine constitute serious threats to the success and well-being of our young people; and

WHEREAS, parental influence is one of the most crucial factors in determining the likelihood of substance abuse by teenagers; and

WHEREAS, young people who regularly eat dinner with their families are less likely than the average teenager to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, by helping to provide a structured environment that fosters communication, regular meal times offer opportunities for families to spend time together and strengthen the bonds of kinship which lead to lasting relationships.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2009, as

FAMILY DAY A DAY TO EAT DINNER WITH YOUR CHILDREN

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive impact of strong family interaction on the well-being and future success of the young people of the Palmetto State.