

**WHEREAS,** acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a major worldwide epidemic caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers by killing or damaging cells of the body's immune system; and

**WHEREAS,** an estimated 33 million people worldwide, including 1.1 million Americans, are living with HIV/AIDS; and

**WHEREAS,** at the end of 2007, South Carolina ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the rate of newly diagnosed cases of AIDS, with 7 out of 10 new infections occurring among African Americans and 71 percent of new infections occurring among men; and

**WHEREAS,** with the theme, "Working Together," the 2009 observance of World AIDS Day calls attention to the need for people in South Carolina and around the world to unite in support of the individuals, families and communities affected by this disease and to renew our commitment to addressing the threat AIDS poses to our well-being and quality of life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2009, as

## **WORLD AIDS DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about HIV and AIDS and to work together to raise awareness of the threat, treatment and prevention of AIDS among the residents of the Palmetto State.