

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** children deserve to be safe and free from harm in their homes, schools, and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** child maltreatment, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse, is harm caused to a child by a parent, caretaker, or other person responsible for a child's safety; and

**WHEREAS,** tragically, more than 1 million children in the United States are confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS,** 23 children in South Carolina died from maltreatment in 2001; and

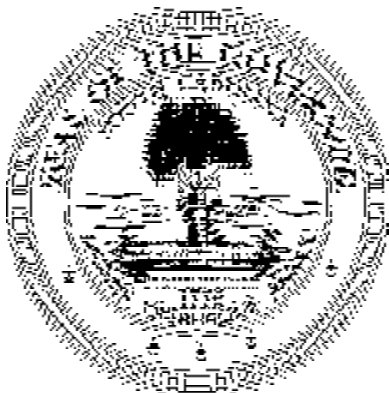
**WHEREAS,** the annual observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month is designed to educate our citizens about the devastating effects of child abuse, while empowering and encouraging people to get involved; and

**WHEREAS,** this year's theme, "Gateways to Prevention – What Everyone Can Do to Prevent Child Abuse", focuses on raising awareness about prevention efforts and what every one of us can do to help keep children safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as

### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to prevent the abuse and neglect of our children.



A stylized, high-contrast signature of Mark Sanford.

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**