WHEREAS, since its founding in 1983, the United Black Fund of the Midlands has worked to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged persons throughout the Midlands; and

WHEREAS, the United Black Fund of the Midlands is dedicated to securing equitable participation for African-Americans and for the economically disadvantaged in raising and dispensing charitable funds; and

WHEREAS, the United Black Fund of the Midlands provides direct emergency assistance to individuals and families in danger of being homeless or disconnected from essential utilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 observance of “United Black Fund of the Midlands Month” provides an opportunity to recognize the United Black Fund of the Midlands for its commitment to meeting the educational, social, health, and cultural needs of African-American residents in Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, and Richland counties.

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

UNITED BLACK FUND OF THE MIDLANDS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the United Black Fund of the Midlands for the vital services it provides our citizens.