

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the most common birth defect, congenital heart defect is a leading cause of death from birth defects during infancy; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 babies in the United States are born with a congenital heart defect each year, many of whom, tragically, will not survive into adulthood because of the severity of the defect, the absence of early detection, a lack of donor hearts, or failure of the medical intervention used; and

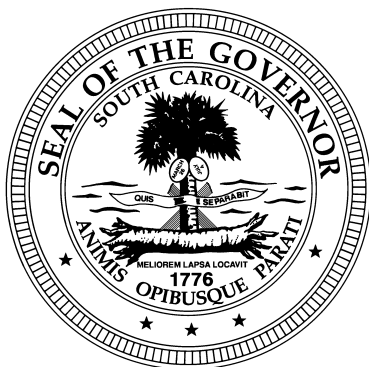
WHEREAS, continued research and advancements in medical technologies can and have saved lives, as evidenced by the more than one million people living with congenital heart defects in the United States today; and

WHEREAS, "A Day for Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day" recognizes the courage of children with heart defects and their families, remembers loved ones lost to congenital heart defects, and honors the medical professionals who dedicate themselves to this condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 14, 2005, as

A DAY FOR HEARTS: CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and intervention in saving the lives of children born with congenital heart defects.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA