

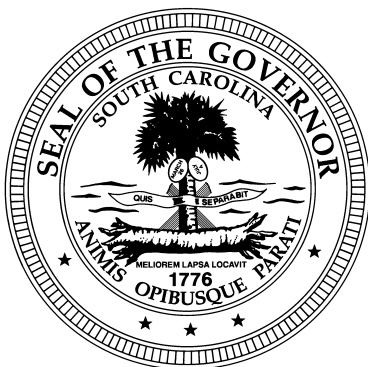
# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** quality education and skill development opportunities help ensure that the young people of the Palmetto State have the resources necessary to make healthy decisions that will enable them to achieve their full potential and become future leaders and productive citizens of our state and nation; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the number of cumulative adult/adolescent HIV infection cases reported in 2002; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately half of all new HIV infections are among people under age 25, with the majority of young people becoming infected sexually; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina teens are often faced with difficult decisions regarding sexual activity and abstinence which can have severe implications for their future lives as happy and contributing members of society; and
- WHEREAS,** tragically, some teens lack the skills and guidance necessary to make responsible decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** the West Metro Youth Leadership Institute, the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Coker College, HopeHealth, and CareSouth Carolina are committed to working together with teens, parents, schools, and community leaders to ensure that our young people acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to make responsible, informed decisions through the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Teens in Focus Conference "Adolescent HIV/AIDS: Bridging the Gap."
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2004, as

### TEENS IN FOCUS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to educate our young people to make responsible, informed decisions.



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

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