WHEREAS, information, referral and assistance programs provide early intervention and resource support for people in times of personal and family crisis by simplifying access to health and human service providers; and

WHEREAS, staffed by professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the health and human services available in their communities, information, referral and assistance programs are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of individuals, families and caregivers as well as agencies, community planners and funding organizations; and

WHEREAS, the information, referral and assistance process empowers individuals to make informed choices through education, affirmation, advocacy, collaborative planning and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, information and referral agencies work to affirm the dignity, self-worth and independence of individuals, facilitating their decisions and actions while drawing on their experiences, skills and knowledge.

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

INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND ASSISTANCE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize these agencies and their staff members for their valuable contributions to the quality of life of residents across the Palmetto State.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA