WHEREAS, ending homelessness is critical for the vitality of South Carolina families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 13,000 South Carolinians experience homelessness on any given night; and

WHEREAS, homelessness affects all South Carolinians, including families with children, young adults, the elderly, and veterans; and

WHEREAS, homelessness creates barriers to accessing essential services, such as affordable healthcare, housing, and education; and

WHEREAS, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week calls attention to the plight of the homeless in South Carolina and throughout the nation and encourages people to work together to end homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 16 - 22, 2003, as

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to take an active role in reducing homelessness in the Palmetto State.