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

WHEREAS, an estimated 7,500 to 13,000 South Carolinians experience homelessness on any given night; and

WHEREAS, homelessness affects South Carolinians from all walks of life, including families with children, young adults, veterans, the disabled and the elderly; and

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

WHEREAS, providing the statewide leadership and cooperation necessary for an integrated approach to address the comprehensive needs of homeless individuals and families, the South Carolina Council on Homelessness has prepared and submitted a ten-year plan to end homelessness in the Palmetto State; 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 14 – 20, 2004, 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.