

# 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 is experiencing an increasing rate in the growth of HIV cases reported in 2002 for persons between the ages of 14 and 24, ranking 15<sup>th</sup> among all states for the incidence of HIV/AIDS; 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

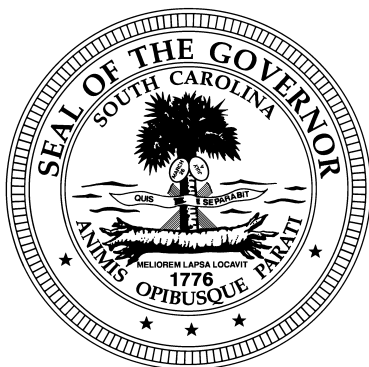
**WHEREAS,** tragically, some teens lack the skills and guidance necessary to make responsible decisions; and

**WHEREAS,** the West Metro Youth Leadership Institute, the Byerly Foundation, Coker College, HopeHealth, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's STD Division 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 11<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 April 30, 2005, as**

### TEENS IN FOCUS DAY

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



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

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