# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** autism spectrum disorder is a severely incapacitating, lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

**WHEREAS,** autism spectrum disorder is the fastest-growing` developmental disability, affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans and more than 42,000 individuals in the Palmetto State; and

**WHEREAS,** although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not been found, accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention can help persons with autism spectrum disorder reach their maximum potential; and

**WHEREAS,** support groups throughout South Carolina and the nation are advocates for the rights, community inclusion, and appropriate education of all persons with autism spectrum disorder; and

**WHEREAS,** the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month educates families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as

## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure that individuals with autism spectrum disorder are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

Nikki R. Haley

**NIKKI R. HALEY**
**GOVERNOR**
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**