

DAY OF HOPE

- WHEREAS: Approximately three million reports of suspected or known child abuse and neglect involving five million American children are made to child protective services agencies each year; and
- WHEREAS: 588,000 American children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes and institutions; and
- WHEREAS: It is estimated that every year in America more than 1,200 children, 85 percent under the age of six and 44 percent under the age of one, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS: The rate of infant homicide has doubled and reached a 30-year-high during a period in which there was an overall decrease in infant mortality; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2003, as a DAY OF HOPE in Georgia and urge all Georgians to help break this cycle of abuse and neglect and give these children hope for the future.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 2nd day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.