

# CAREGIVERS MONTH

WHEREAS: Georgia's caregivers render care and support to Georgia's disabled citizens and families. Caregiving crosses the lifespan and includes caring for people who have mental illnesses, physical illnesses, developmental disabilities and infirmities of the frail elderly; and

WHEREAS: A caregiver may often make extreme sacrifices in order to provide quality service and care. The challenges of caregiving are many and include financial hardship, mental and emotional stress, and a negative effect on the physical health of the caregiver, which may affect the ability to provide proper and adequate care; and

WHEREAS: Through research, education and training, the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Human Development (RCI) seeks to promote the mental health and well-being of individuals, families and professional caregivers, encourages effective caregiving practices, builds public awareness of caregiving needs and advances public and social policies that enhance caring communities; and

WHEREAS: RCI is collaborating with the Georgia Area Agencies on Aging and other professional groups to establish coalitions of professional and family caregivers, called CARE-NETs, throughout Georgia. Georgia is the first state in our nation to implement such programs; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2003 as **CAREGIVERS MONTH** in Georgia and urge all Georgians to recognize and appreciate the many sacrifices of our caregivers and support programs designed to aid these caregivers in their tasks.

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