

# DAY OF FAITH

WHEREAS: We have enjoyed a history of economic growth and vitality in our country; yet, many of our citizens have not fully shared in our nation's prosperity. In response, Georgia citizens, families and communities remain committed to aiding their fellow man in battling social distress; and

WHEREAS: Faith-based organizations in Georgia are critical to meeting the needs of our citizens and communities, from feeding the hungry to sheltering the homeless, from training the unemployed to educating our youth; and

WHEREAS: Faith-based initiatives and collaboratives have brought economic vitality to underserved neighborhoods and communities, often through partnerships with businesses and local and state governments; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia seeks to expand its partnership with faith-based initiatives and organizations in fulfilling the federal law of "Charitable Choice" and supports the Georgia Faith-Based Initiative Task Force of legislators, spiritual leaders, community activists and business leaders, to ensure that fairness exists for faith-based organizations seeking equal access to government funding as they attempt to better serve our communities; and

WHEREAS: By complying with the federal mandate, Georgia faith-based organizations can serve all members of the public without regard to their religious beliefs, offering social services to our communities in a choice of settings in which to provide needed help using state funds; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 6, 2003, as a **DAY OF FAITH** in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.