

## PEER HELPERS WEEK

WHEREAS: Peer helpers help young people in Georgia and throughout the world mobilize to address the academic and social needs of fellow students and have emerged as a recognized and dynamic force in the ever-changing field of peer helping; and

WHEREAS: Children and adolescents today face an increasing range of social problems and need to learn the proper avenues for handling conflict and emotional issues; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's educators, in addition to their regular academic and related responsibilities, are often called upon to help our youth deal with issues such as substance abuse, lack of self-esteem and other signs of social and academic maladjustment; and

WHEREAS: Throughout Georgia and across the nation, studies have shown that enlisting students to help their fellow students is one of the most effective ways to help our young people deal with their problems. Peer helpers learn the dynamics of conflict and effective techniques for resolving conflicts peacefully; and

WHEREAS: Peer helper programs are among the fastest-growing programs in Georgia's public schools, and many schools and communities have adopted peer helping programs to train students to help diffuse potentially damaging situations; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 23-27, 2003, as PEER HELPERS WEEK in Georgia and urge our citizens to support efforts to equip our children with the necessary skills to handle conflict.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 27th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand three.