



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION SENIOR AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: Across the United States, more than 5.8 million children are living with their grandparents. These grandparent-headed households, or "grandfamilies," provide secure and healthy environments for their grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: There are currently over 102,126 grandparents in Georgia and over 6,000 grandparents in Atlanta who have grandchildren living with them fulltime. Almost 25 percent of these families live in poverty; and

WHEREAS: As grandparents take on a new and often difficult role of providing, they most often lack critical information about support services, resources, programs, benefits, laws and policies available to help them successfully fulfill their care giving role; and

WHEREAS: Project GRANDD is the only program in Georgia to provide intensive care, support, and resources to relative caregivers raising grandchildren with disabilities, chronic illness, behavior or learning difficulties; and

WHEREAS: Through participation in Project GRANDD, grandparent caregivers increase their knowledge of resources and support for their grandchildren with disabilities and benefit from connecting with other grandparents. Project GRANDD increases access to support services, obtain needed referrals for grandchildren, increase well being for them, and reduce feelings of stress and isolation; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 27, 2013, as SENIOR AWARENESS DAY in Georgia and encourage increased understanding and support of grandparents raising their grandchildren in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Cl. W. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF