

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Sister Ellen was a member of the Adrian Dominican Sisters Order for 55 years and came to Beaufort County in 1972 on behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Charleston; and

**WHEREAS**, her mission was to look over the Camp St. Mary's facilities and envision a purpose for the site's future use that would meet some worthy need of the rural community living near the site; and

**WHEREAS**, she ran what started as the Camp St. Mary Human Development Center on the peaceful banks of the Okatie River near the Baileys community in southern Beaufort County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center offered alternative education programs for teenage mothers, child development for infants and preschoolers, a parenting program for mentally handicapped mothers and Camp Sunrise, a summer program that mixed handicapped and non-handicapped children. At its height the program enrolled 40 teen mothers and 135 babies and preschoolers and kept a waiting list of more than 100 children. Its annual budget approached \$700,000, which Sister Ellen worked tirelessly to raise; and


**WHEREAS**, the Center, later to be called the Lowcountry Human Development Center, continues to reach out to those who might otherwise fall through the cracks, though many more safety nets have been built since Sister Ellen arrived; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Ellen's example of determination, ideals, perseverance and reaching out with practical solutions, should live on in her chosen community. She gave her full measure of ultimate concern for those who came to better themselves and to seek a life start for their child.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Beaufort County Council hereby acknowledges that Sister Ellen was a force for the underprivileged and changed the Lowcountry, one struggling life at a time.

Dated this 7th day of June 2002.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By:   
Thomas C. Taylor  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Clerk to Council