



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, many children in Florida are living in foster care and every child deserves a loving, nurturing and permanent adoptive family; and

WHEREAS, adoption provides a unique opportunity to enrich the lives of children, adoptive parents, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, 4,548 children in Florida found forever families during fiscal year 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, approximately 700 children without an identified adoptive family, including teenagers, sibling groups, and children with medical needs, are currently available for adoption in Florida; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis, in her role as Chair of the Children and Youth Cabinet, is passionate about ensuring all children regardless of their circumstances have safe, loving homes, support systems, and opportunities to succeed; and

WHEREAS, state employees and other eligible applicants receive additional benefits for adopting special needs children from the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Community-Based Care Lead Agencies, Heart Galleries, state and local agencies and organizations join together in November to raise awareness of foster care adoptions in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida will celebrate National Adoption Month and Florida Adoption Month by featuring children available for adoption, uplifting the voices of adoptive parents, and sharing resources for foster and adoptive families at MyFloridaMyFamily.com; and

WHEREAS, Florida has committed to the federal "All In Foster Adoption Challenge" and will continue to work with non-profits, businesses, faith partners and local communities to find forever homes for every waiting child and support families as they open their hearts; and

WHEREAS, November 21, 2020, is National Adoption Day, and families and children across the nation and the great State of Florida will celebrate the joy of adoption on this day, and throughout the month, while remembering our children who are still dreaming and hoping for a loving, permanent family of their own.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2020, as *National Adoption Month in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of November, in the year two thousand twenty.



Governor