



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA ADOPTION MONTH

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

WHEREAS, every child needs and deserves a loving, supportive, nurturing, and permanent family; and

WHEREAS, approximately 800 children are currently available for adoption without an identified adoptive family, including teenagers, sibling groups, and children with medical needs; and

WHEREAS, 3,469 children in Florida found forever families during Fiscal Year 2015-2016; 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 to raise awareness of foster care adoptions in Florida; and

WHEREAS, November 19, 2016, 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; and

WHEREAS, Florida will celebrate National Adoption Month and Florida Adoption Month through 30 Days of Amazing Children on the Explore Adoption website at www.adoptflorida.org; and

WHEREAS, adoptive families, including relatives and grandparents, who have already adopted may benefit from continued post-adoption support services in the days and years ahead;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2016 as *Florida Adoption Month* and urge all Floridians to consider opening their hearts and homes to children in this state who are in need of a forever family.



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 28th day of October, in the year two thousand sixteen.



Governor