



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA ADOPTION MONTH

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

WHEREAS, many children living in foster care cannot safely return to their original homes; and

WHEREAS, adoption provides an opportunity to better the life of a child forever by providing a sense of identity, belonging, and security; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,800 children in Florida found loving forever families through adoption during fiscal year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, approximately 4,500 children in Florida are currently available for adoption; and

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

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

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis is dedicated to bridging partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit entities to leverage resources that will ensure all children have opportunities to live happy, healthy lives regardless of their circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Community-Based Care Lead Agencies, Heart Galleries, state and local agencies, and community organizations join together in November to raise awareness of adoption from foster care in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families encourages individuals and families to learn more about the process to adopt from foster care at www.AdoptFlorida.org; and

WHEREAS, November 20, 2021, is designated as National Adoption Day, a time when families will celebrate the joy of adoption and finding a forever family.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2021, as *Florida Adoption Month*.



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-one.

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written in a cursive style.

Governor