



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

WHEREAS, many children in Florida are living in substitute care and need loving, nurturing and permanent adoptive families to help them achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, brothers and sisters who are separated in the foster care system long to be adopted by the same family; many older youth living in foster care feel they may be too old to be adopted, yet they want a sense of belonging that adoptive parents can provide; and some children who wait the longest for permanent homes are children with disabilities or medical conditions and they need families who will embrace them and experience the unique rewards of adopting a child with special needs; and

WHEREAS, adoption provides unique opportunities to change a child's life and enrich the life of the adoptive parent or family that welcomes them; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Award-Winning *Explore Adoption* Initiative highlights the benefits and positive outcomes of adoption and provides the tools for finding forever families for Florida's kids in care; and

WHEREAS, Adoption Sunday, observed the second Sunday of November, provides an opportunity to engage faith and spiritual leaders in promoting adoption as a positive way to grow families, and to raise public awareness of foster children awaiting adoption; and

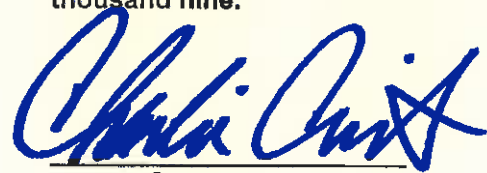
WHEREAS, November 21, 2009 is National Adoption Day and families and children all over our great state of Florida will celebrate the joy of family on this day and during the whole month, while remembering our children who still need a forever family; and

WHEREAS, approximately 850 children are currently available to be matched with adoptive families and the many families who have already adopted children deserve and require agency and community support in the days and years ahead;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2009 as National 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 Capitol, this 19th day of October, in the year two thousand nine.


Governor