

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Every child deserves to grow up in a loving, stable family. Yet sadly, many children are born to parents who are unwilling or unable to care for them; and

WHEREAS: More than 425,000 children in the United States are currently in foster care, including over 110,000 children awaiting adoption. For children who have lost their birth families, adoption can provide the home life, parental love, nurturing, and security that they would otherwise miss; and

WHEREAS: Currently in Arkansas, there are over 5,000 children in foster care and approximately 500 children who are eligible for adoption; and

WHEREAS: National Adoption Day occurs on Saturday, November 18, 2017, during National Adoption Month, and in order to help children find permanent forever homes, local courts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will open their doors to finalize the adoptions of children and join other organizations to celebrate these adoptions; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's future depends on today's children, and it is important to involve the media, private and public agencies, adoptive parents, advocacy groups, civic and church groups, as well as businesses in providing publicity and information to heighten community awareness of the crucial needs of these children and of all those who work tirelessly to place them in loving families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH IN ARKANSAS

and November 18th, 2017 as

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize this opportunity to celebrate adoptive families in Arkansas and to commit ourselves to finding each of our children a loving forever family home.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 27th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State