

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas strives to promote permanent placement with relatives or other adults when reunification with birth parents is not possible; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the Arkansas Department of Human Services/Division of Children and Family Services is to keep children safe and help families by respectfully engaging them using community-based services and support; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 660 children throughout Arkansas are growing up in kinship families, people who have opened up their hearts and homes to provide the love, security, stability, and family connection all children deserve; and

WHEREAS: Providers of kinship care can include grandparents, older siblings, aunts, uncles, other relatives within the fifth degree, and any other individual not related by blood or marriage but who has a strong, positive, emotional tie to a child and has a positive role in their life; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 39 percent of Arkansas foster children in out-of-home placements are with kinship care and families; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Department of Human Services/Division of Children and Family Services and its partners are committed to supporting kinship families through a variety of services designed to help children and their loved ones thrive;

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 September 2022, as

NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the vital role of kinship care providers and celebrate their important contributions to the children, families, and communities of Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 2nd day of September, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State