



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, during the month of November, as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families, New Yorkers join in the nationwide observance of Adoption Month and focus special attention on those children waiting to be permanently adopted by a loving, committed family; and

Whereas, in New York State, more than 5,100 children in foster care have a goal of adoption, with many having spent a significant portion of their lives in a "temporary" living situation, lacking the support and stability of a family as they are moved within the child welfare system; and

Whereas, nearly 2,900 children in foster care will never return to their birth families and are eligible for adoption, with more than 1,000 children currently awaiting an adoptive placement; and

Whereas, New York's waiting children reflect all ages, backgrounds, abilities and disabilities, and must overcome challenges, but have a common need for loving families; and

Whereas, during National Adoption Awareness Month, we are especially mindful of this year's theme, "Promoting and Supporting Sibling Connections," and understand the importance of preserving sibling bonds, with hopes that waiting sibling groups can be placed together in a stable, loving home with permanent, adoptive parents; and

Whereas, November 22 is designated as National Adoption Day, when judges and child advocates come together in communities across our state and nation to finalize adoptions and to celebrate adoptive families by giving thanks to wonderfully caring and generous people who have made a lifetime commitment by adopting a child; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers are invited to view photos and videos of New York's Waiting Children in the New York State Adoption Album at <http://ocfs.ny.gov/adopt/> and to consider becoming an adoptive parent; furthermore, we join in celebrating adoption, honoring families that grow through adoption, and raising awareness of children who await permanent adoption and the chance to grow up in a stable and healthy environment;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2014 as

## ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth day of October in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor