



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, each Thanksgiving, people across our nation gather to express appreciation for our families, friends, and homes; for thousands of children in foster care, the opportunity to celebrate this tradition as a permanent part of a family is their greatest dream; and

Whereas, there are over 700 children and youth in New York State's foster care system waiting to be placed in a nurturing, safe, and permanent home; nearly all of these children have special needs due to physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, are teens or school-aged, or are part of a sibling group who want to stay together and grow up in the closeness of the same home; and

Whereas, 2,260 children were adopted from foster care in 2012, offering them opportunities for a brighter future, bringing great joy to the adoptive parents, and placing fewer demands on social services; and

Whereas, adoption is the goal for approximately 3,300 foster children in the Empire State, and finding families able and willing to adopt these children is our ultimate goal; and

Whereas, National Adoption Month raises awareness of the importance of adoption for children and youth in foster care and focuses attention on the continuous need for adoptive parents; New Yorkers are grateful to the many adoptive families who open their homes and provide a permanent, loving, and caring environment for New York's Waiting Children; and

Whereas, National Adoption Month also features National Adoption Day on Saturday, November 23, when judges and child advocates come together in communities across our state and nation to finalize adoptions and celebrate adoptive families; 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; during this monthlong observance, all New Yorkers are encouraged to join in celebrating adoption, honoring families that grow through adoption, increasing their awareness of changes and issues related to adoption, and focusing attention on those children who await permanent adoption by a loving, committed family;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2013 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 twenty-ninth day of October in the year two thousand thirteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor