



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, all New Yorkers join to support the worthy and valuable goals of National Adoption Month, which raises awareness of the importance of adoption for children and youth in foster care, and the need for adoptive parents; and

Whereas, every child deserves to be part of a family that is loving and supportive, and to be raised in a nurturing, safe, and stable environment that allows them to grow up and enjoy a healthy, productive life; and

Whereas, there are 848 children and youth in New York State's foster care system who are legally freed for adoption and are waiting for placement in a permanent home, which can be challenging to find; 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 grow up together in the same home; and

Whereas, 2,337 children were adopted from foster care in 2011, offering them a brighter future, bringing great joy to the adoptive parents, and decreasing demands on social services; and

Whereas, approximately 5,582 children in New York State's foster care system have the goal of adoption, and finding families able and willing to adopt these children is our collective goal; and

Whereas, New Yorkers are grateful to the many exceptional adoptive families who open their homes and provide a permanent, loving, and caring environment for these special children; and

Whereas, during National Adoption Month, all New Yorkers who may be interested in becoming adoptive parents are encouraged to visit the New York State Adoption Service website at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/adopt/> and learn more about the adoption process in New York State;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2012 as

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State and encourage all people to celebrate adoption, honor families that grow through adoption, further their awareness of adoption-related issues, and give greater attention and support to those children who are awaiting adoption by loving families.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fourth
day of October in the year two thousand twelve.




Governor


Secretary to the Governor