



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA ADOPTION MONTH

WHEREAS, many children in Florida are living in foster care and every child deserves a forever loving, nurturing and permanent adoptive family when it is determined that the child cannot be safely returned home; and

WHEREAS, brothers and sisters who are separated in the foster care system long to be adopted by the same family; many older youth living in foster care feel they may be too old to be adopted, yet they want a sense of belonging that adoptive parents can provide; and some children who wait the longest for permanent homes are children with physical and mental health challenges and they need families who embrace them and experience the unique rewards of adopting a child with special needs; and

WHEREAS, adoption provides unique opportunities to change a child's life and enrich the life of the adoptive parent or family that welcomes them; and

WHEREAS, Florida was recognized by the federal government, as the best in the nation for its increase in the adoptions of children from foster care for 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Association of Heart Galleries was created to better coordinate the resources of our Heart Galleries so that they, by providing the much needed exposure for the faces and voices of our waiting children, can continue their unprecedented success in finding loving and permanent homes among Florida citizens; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Award-Winning Explore Adoption Initiative through the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection highlights the benefits and positive outcomes of adoption and provides the tools for finding forever families for Florida's kids in foster care; and

WHEREAS, November 20, 2010 is National Adoption Day and families and children all over our great state of Florida will celebrate the joy of family on this day and during the whole month, while remembering our children who are still waiting for a forever family; and

WHEREAS, approximately 850 children are currently available for adoption without identified adoptive families and many families who have already adopted children deserve and require agency and faith-based and community-based support and encouragement in the days and years ahead;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2010 as **Florida Adoption Month**.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 28th day of October, in the year two thousand ten.

A blue ink signature of Charlie Crist, written in a cursive style.

Governor