

**Text of the First Lady of Florida's message for National Adoption Month
11/1/11, Tallahassee, Florida.**

Hello. I am Ann Scott, First Lady of Florida and an advocate for Florida's children. November is National Adoption Month.

On any given day in Florida, 800 children in foster care are available for adoption. These children deserve permanent families.

It is so important that they have parents to love and guide them. I have spent time with several of Florida's foster children and they have captured my heart. I know they will touch yours as they share their hopes and dreams of belonging to a forever family.

In November, Florida is presenting 30 Days of Amazing Children: Explore Adoption! Every day a different "Amazing Child" will be featured on the Explore Adoption web site. These children are teenagers, sibling groups, and children with medical conditions who dream of finding a forever family. However, these amazing children often wait the longest to be adopted. Please encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to visit the Explore Adoption web site and meet these beautiful children. With your help, we can find them loving adoptive families.

While a private adoption can be expensive, adopting one of Florida's children in foster care costs little or nothing. In addition to changing the life of a child forever, Florida offers many benefits to adoptive families. I encourage you to visit adoptflorida.org. For Florida's children waiting to be adopted, we can make November a month to remember.