



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, approximately 800 children are currently available for adoption without an identified adoptive family, including teenagers, sibling groups, and children with medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, every child needs and deserves a loving, supportive, nurturing and permanent family when it is determined that the child cannot be safely returned home; and

WHEREAS, adoption provides a unique opportunity to improve children's lives and enrich the lives of adoptive parents, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida's First Lady Ann Scott brings a new level of prominence as an advocate for children and as an ambassador for foster care adoption in Florida; and

WHEREAS, together the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the Department of Children and Families, Community Based Care Lead Agencies, *Explore Adoption*, Heart Galleries, Forever Families, state agencies and local organizations join together to raise awareness of adoption through foster care in Florida; and

WHEREAS, November 19, 2011 is National Adoption Day and families and children all over our great state of Florida will celebrate the joy of adoption on this day and during the whole month, while remembering our children who are still dreaming and hoping for a loving permanent family of their own to belong to; and

WHEREAS, Florida will celebrate National Adoption Month and Florida Adoption Awareness Month through "30 Days of Amazing Children: *Explore Adoption!*"; and

WHEREAS, families who have already adopted children may benefit from post-adoption support services and encouragement from agencies, faith-based and community-based organizations in the days and years ahead.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2011 as *Florida Adoption Awareness 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 Capital, this 1st day of November, in the year two thousand eleven.


Governor