



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, giving a child a strong foundation - a loving family and a safe place to grow - is one of life's greatest and most generous gifts; and

**WHEREAS**, through adoption, families throughout Tennessee have provided secure environments for children who need them, and thanks to their nurturing and care more young people have been able to realize their potential and lead full and happy lives; and

**WHEREAS**, 953 children were adopted by loving and caring families in Tennessee last year through the Tennessee Department of Children's Services; and

**WHEREAS**, in the state of Tennessee, approximately 620 children currently await adoption or are in foster care, looking forward to permanent homes; and

**WHEREAS**, these children can thrive, reach their full potential, and spread their wings when given the loving and firm foundation of family; and

**WHEREAS**, to help these children find permanent, nurturing families, many local courts of Tennessee will open their doors on National Adoption Day, Saturday, November 19, 2011, to finalize the adoptions of children and join other organizations to celebrate all adoptions; and

**WHEREAS**, we honor the loving embrace of adoptive families and the affirming role of adoption in the lives of families; and

**WHEREAS**, the social services professionals and volunteers throughout the state work diligently in search of adoptive homes for Tennessee's children in need;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2011, as

## ADOPTION MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 1st day of November, 2011.

Governor

Secretary of State