



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee recognizes the importance of giving youth permanent, safe, and loving homes through adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, supportive families can help a child or teen overcome past traumatic experiences and reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 350 Tennessee children and teens in foster care are currently waiting for their permanent home; and

**WHEREAS**, we must raise both awareness for those children who are waiting for forever families and celebrate Tennessee's adoptive families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Fosters Hope initiative has set goals of increasing support for adopted children and their families and increasing rates of permanency for our children, and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services found permanency for 1,630 Tennessee children by facilitating 1,219 adoptions and 411 subsidized permanent guardianships; and

**WHEREAS**, the State also recognizes the important role that private providers of adoption services also play in creating forever families;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November, 2021 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 nineteenth day of October, 2021.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in blue ink.

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Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Ruggitt in blue ink.

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Secretary of State

