



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, all children and youth deserve to grow, develop, and have their needs met by being placed with families who can offer a permanent home; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, 1,221 Tennessee children, ranging in age from newborn to 18 years, exited foster care and were adopted into forever families; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, 385 Tennessee children also joined forever families through the establishment of permanent guardianship; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, for the fourth consecutive year the Department of Children's Services set a record for the number of children who joined forever families through adoption or permanent guardianship; and

**WHEREAS**, through TN Foster's Hope, a statewide collaborative effort that engages state agencies, community organizations, the business community, and the faith community, more resources have been placed to better meet the needs of our foster and adopted children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the families who have adopted and the children waiting for adoptive families deserve love, support, and acceptance from their communities and from public and private agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services commends the love, commitment, and care of families who have committed to caring for Tennessee's children and their contributions to the safety and well-being of youth in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services is grateful for families who have opened their hearts and their homes to create paths to permanency through adoption and permanent guardianship;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 13-19, 2022, as

*Adoption is Love Week*

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 tenth day of February 2022.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State