



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee recognizes that all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home; and

**WHEREAS**, loving and supportive families can help children and teens overcome past traumatic experiences and reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 500 Tennessee children or teens in foster care are currently waiting for adoptive families and permanency; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to both raise awareness for those children who are waiting for forever families and celebrate Tennessee's adoptive families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Fosters Hope initiative provides increased support for children who are adopted or in foster care and their families, and is focused on increasing rates of permanency for our children; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2023 Federal Fiscal Year, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services found permanency for 1,055 Tennessee children in foster care who were adopted into forever families; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2023 State Fiscal Year, 529 private domestic adoptions and 45 international adoptions were completed by child-placing agencies licensed in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, the State of Tennessee dedicated an historic \$600 million in funding to accelerate child placement and support foster and adoptive families; and

**WHEREAS**, the State recognizes that private child placing and foster care agencies, as well as non-profit organizations that support and advocate for adoption and adoption-friendly policies, play important roles in making Tennessee a leader in building strong families through adoption and foster care;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2023 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 first day of November, 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Ju Hargett*

Secretary of State