



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the State recognizes 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, approximately 500 Tennessee children and 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 Every Child Tennessee 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 2024 Federal Fiscal Year, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services found permanency for 1,165 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, 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 November 2024 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 thirtieth day of October 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

[Signature]

Secretary of State