

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS,

WHEREAS, many children in Kansas are living in temporary foster care and need loving, nurturing and permanent adoptive families to help them realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS, brothers and sisters who are separated in the foster care system yearn to be adopted by the same family; and

WHEREAS, many older youth living in foster care feel they may be too old to be adopted, yet they want a sense of belonging that adoptive parents can provide; and

WHEREAS, some children who wait the longest for permanent homes are those with disabilities or medical conditions who need families to embrace them and experience the unique rewards of adopting a child with special needs; and WHEREAS, adoption brings unique opportunities to forever transform a child's life and permanently enrich the life of the adoptive parent or family that welcomes them; and

WHEREAS, approximately 505 children in Kansas do not have any adoptive resources and are currently available to be matched with families, which is a small portion of the 115,000 children in the United States who are legally freed for adoption and are waiting for families; and WHEREAS, This effort along with similar celebrations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will offer children the chance to live with stable and loving families and encourage other dedicated individuals to make a powerful difference in the lives of a child through adoption:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim November of 2013, as Adoption Month in Kansas in hopes that the people of this great state will open their hearts and homes to Kansas kids in the foster care system.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 25th day of October, A.D. 2013