



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, adoption is a celebration of love and connectedness; and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds of thousands of children nationwide and many in New Jersey who, for various reasons cannot be raised by their birth families; and

WHEREAS, whether domestic or international, privately- or state-coordinated, adoption creates new families; and

WHEREAS, adoption helps people to start or expand their family; and

WHEREAS, all children, deserve and should have the nurturing and guidance of people that will help them to develop physically and emotionally to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, adoption can provide an important sense of belonging and assurance to children, particularly adolescents, sibling groups and children with special needs, that can last their entire lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families does not preclude a person from being an adoptive parent based solely on their culture, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, affectional orientation, or marital/civil union or domestic partnership status; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has finalized over one thousand adoptions per year for each of the past four years; and

WHEREAS, to raise awareness and to promote forever families, Saturday, November 23, 2019 has been declared National Adoption Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

## NOVEMBER 2019 AS ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and urge residents to consider adoption as a way to build or expand their families, and to take advantage of the special educational and informational programs offered during this month through the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and other child advocacy organizations.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-fifth day of October in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR