

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve strong families with parents who are there to protect and love them, and every year hundreds of Hillsborough County, Florida families extend the gift of family to a child through adoption, providing a unique opportunity to improve children's lives and enrich the lives of adoptive parents, their families, and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, there are approximately 355,000 children in foster care including about 21,000 in the state of Florida with 1,900 of those in Hillsborough County, and many more children are eligible for adoption including teenagers, sibling groups, and those with special needs, and many youths age out of the foster care system without finding a permanent loving home; and

**WHEREAS**, November is known as **National Adoption Month** to bring attention to the enrichment that adoption brings, and this year the 2024 theme is *Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds*, and **National Adoption Day** is held on Saturday, November 23, 2024, throughout the United States to further raise awareness through planned celebrations that offer children the opportunity for loving forever families, while encouraging others to consider the joys that come with adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, in Florida, government agencies and nonprofit organizations work together to raise awareness about foster care, and in Hillsborough County, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, the Junior League of Tampa, the Children's Network of Hillsborough County, Guardian ad Litem Program, Voices for Children, the Department of Children and Families, Heart Gallery of Tampa, Children's Board of Hillsborough County, and others including supportive individuals will join together to celebrate November as National Adoption Month, bringing attention to foster care and to those children still awaiting adoption, and the tremendous value of adoption in Tampa Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, November 22, 2024, **National Adoption Day in Hillsborough County** is held at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, and the special event commemorates the adoption of children into forever families in our community, and it provides an opportunity for attendees to witness the happiness of many adoption finalizations and celebrate this important and life-changing moment in the lives of the children and their new families.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 22, 2024, as

## **"NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY"**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in honoring the many caring families and individuals who have made a difference in a child's life through adoption, because *while adopting one child may not change the world, for that one child, the world will change.*

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor