

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, all children deserve strong families with mothers and fathers 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; and

WHEREAS, during National Adoption Month, we recognize the compassion of adoptive and foster families and renew our pledge to finding loving and stable homes for children in need; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough Kids, Inc. (HKI) is a non-profit agency which performs the duties of lead agency in the community-based care project in Hillsborough County. Its mission is to ensure the safety and permanency of abused and neglected children in Hillsborough County by providing comprehensive services that promote strong families. During fiscal year 2010-2011, Hillsborough Kids finalized 270 adoptions in our community; and

WHEREAS, more than 118,000 children remain in foster care in the United States awaiting adoption, with over 133 children ages 2-17 waiting in Hillsborough County alone; and

WHEREAS, the Month of November is known as Adoption Recognition Month and November 19th is National Adoption Day throughout the United States. In Hillsborough County, Florida, "Celebrating Forever Families" will be held on November 18, 2011 with over 30 adoption finalizations planned; and

WHEREAS, these children will celebrate the finalization of their adoptions, have their first new family portrait made, and go to their new homes, secure in the love of families they can now call their own; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is committed to the future needs of our community's youth and is proud to join in recognizing this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 18, 2011 as

"NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY"

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.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4th day of November, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor