

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 over 400,000 children in foster care, with more than 120,000 available for adoption, and many youth age out of the foster care system without finding a permanent loving home, and the Administration for Children and Families established the ALL-IN Foster Adoption Challenge nationally to work with states, nonprofits, businesses, faith partners and local communities to assist in finding homes for waiting children and to provide support for families as they open their hearts; and

WHEREAS, November is known as **Adoption Recognition Month** nationally to bring attention to the enrichment that adoption brings, and this year, **National Adoption Day** is on Saturday, November 21, 2020, held 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 Court, the Junior League of Tampa, Guardian ad Litem, Voices for Children, Eckerd Connects, the Department of Children and Families, the Sylvia Thomas Center, Rough Riders, Heart Gallery of Tampa, Camelot Community Care, and other community organizations and supportive individuals will join together to celebrate November as National Adoption Month to bring attention to foster care and to those children still awaiting adoption, and the tremendous value of adoption in the Tampa Bay area; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 14, 2020, **National Adoption Day in Hillsborough County** features a **Drive Thru Celebration** at Eckerd Connects' The Family Place located on Florida Avenue to commemorate the adoption of 50 children into 30 forever families, and the event provides an opportunity for the Tampa community to share in 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 Saturday, November 14, 2020 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, because *while adopting one child may not change the world, for that one child, the world will change.*

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14th day of November 2020.




Mayor