

Item Title: Adoption Awareness Month Proclamation

Specific Action Requested:

That the Wake County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of November as Adoption Awareness month in Wake County.

Item Summary:

Since 1990, November has been observed as National Adoption Awareness month. During this month, the goal is to increase national awareness and bring attention to the need for permanent families for children and youth within Wake County.

Many organizations celebrate adoption as a positive way to build families. While all adoption-related issues are important, the primary focus of this month is the adoption of children from the foster care system.

Each year, Wake County focuses on outreach and awareness-raising efforts to help support finding permanency for children and youth in foster care in their community of origin. This year's National Adoption Month theme is "Youth Voices: Why Family Matters." It is well known that teenagers are less likely to be adopted, often because of their age, and are much more likely to age out of foster care without strong or stable family support. Securing lifelong connections for teens in foster care, both legally and emotionally, is a critical component in determining their future achievement, health, and well-being. It is vital that professionals help youth explore adoption, what family means to them, and how supportive relationships can set them up for success.

Designation of November as Adoption Awareness month provides an opportunity to raise awareness for children who are waiting for an adoptive home and promotes community involvement in securing forever families for these children.

"Adopting one child won't change the world; but for that child the world will change."
~unknown

Attachments:

1. Proclamation
2. Adoption Awareness Month Events List
3. Adoption Information Fair Flyer