



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Honor National Adoption Month All Year

Dear Colleague,

Please join me in preparing for National Adoption Month in November, a time to bring attention to the 107,000 children and youth in foster care waiting for adoptive families. The Children's Bureau sponsors the National Adoption Month initiative through a partnership with AdoptUSKids and Child Welfare Information Gateway.

The 2011 National Adoption Month initiative seeks to build capacity of adoption agencies and professionals to recruit and retain parents for children and youth waiting for permanent families in America's foster care system. This year's theme, *Build Capacity to Make Lasting Change*, highlights that goal and includes resources for working with Spanish-speaking families using the same theme. The National Adoption Month website will link to the national adoption recruitment campaign and public service announcements produced in partnership with the Ad Council, AdoptUSKids, and the Children's Bureau. This year's campaign is targeted toward the recruitment of families for preteens (8-12 year olds).

Enclosed is a poster with pictures of actual adoptive families* and suggestions for steps professionals can take daily, weekly, and monthly to build capacity in five areas: supporting families, diligently recruiting, working with diverse populations, proactively finding families, and facilitating interjurisdictional placements. Please display this poster prominently in your agency or office to help remind staff to visit the National Adoption Month website and the AdoptUSKids website to access additional capacity-building ideas in preparation for National Adoption Month in November.

Thank you for the work you do throughout the year on behalf of waiting children and the families who open their hearts to adopt them.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bryan Samuels
Commissioner

*Thanks to the AdoptUSKids media spokesfamilies who allowed their images to be used in the enclosed poster.