



In the Name and by the Authority of
**THE STATE OF
OHIO**



WHEREAS, the theme for November 2024 is “National Adoption Month "Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds””; and

WHEREAS, more than 14,200 Ohio children are currently residing in foster homes or other out-of-home settings; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 of those children and youth in foster care are waiting to be adopted and almost 1,500 of the children awaiting adoption are age 13 and older; and

WHEREAS, the children age 13 and older awaiting adoption have been in foster care for an average of 1,754 days, which is almost four years and ten months; and

WHEREAS, 293 of those children will turn 18 in the next year and are at risk of transitioning out of the children services system without a forever family; and

WHEREAS, youth are never too old to need permanent, lifelong relationships and meaningful connections to supportive adults to reach their full potential and be adopted; and

WHEREAS, engaging youth in conversations can have large impacts in permanency planning and can lead to opening the doors to permanency that once seemed impossible; and

WHEREAS, profiles of older youth in need of permanent families can be found at FosterAndAdopt.ohio.gov/profiles; and

WHEREAS, adoption enriches the lives of both children and the families who welcome them; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Children and Youth and public and private child caring agencies throughout the state work diligently to provide safe, stable, permanent homes for Ohio’s most vulnerable children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, **Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio**, do hereby recognize November 2024 as

ADOPTION RECOGNITION AND RECRUITMENT MONTH

on this 1st day of November 2024.

Mike DeWine
Governor



Jon Husted
Lieutenant Governor