



## National Adoption Day Celebrates Its 10-Year Anniversary

On one single day for the last 10 years, the lives of thousands of children in foster care have been forever changed. That day is National Adoption Day. Thanks to the efforts of adoption advocates, policymakers, judges and lawyers, a total of more than 25,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day over the last 10 years. But the need extends beyond just one day. Today in America, 129,000 children are waiting in foster care for loving, adoptive families.

A coalition of national partners – The Alliance for Children’s Rights, Casey Family Services, Children’s Action Network, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and Freddie Mac Foundation – sponsor National Adoption Day to draw special attention to foster children waiting for permanent families and to celebrate all loving families that adopt. This year the National Adoption Day Coalition expects 4,500 foster care children to be adopted on the 10-year anniversary of National Adoption Day on November 21, 2009. November is also National Adoption Month.

### Goals of National Adoption Day 2009

- Finalize adoptions from foster care in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Celebrate and honor all families who adopt
- Raise awareness about the 129,000 children in foster care waiting for adoption
- Encourage others to adopt children from foster care
- Build collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts and advocacy organizations
- Communicate availability and need for post-adoptive services

### How You Can Help

Everyone can support foster care adoption and National Adoption Day. Here are different ways you can make a difference.

- Volunteer for National Adoption Day
- Become an adoption advocate
- Consider adoption
- Visit [www.NationalAdoptionDay.org](http://www.NationalAdoptionDay.org) to find an event near you and learn about foster care adoption

### History of National Adoption Day

In November 2000, National Adoption Day was launched as the National Adoption Day Coalition worked with law firms, state foster care agencies, child advocates and courts to complete hundreds of foster care adoptions in nine jurisdictions nationwide (New York City; Los Angeles; Chicago; Dallas; El Paso; Fort Worth; Washington, D.C.; Omaha, Nebraska and Columbus, Ohio).

As this grassroots effort took hold across the United States, the number of events grew quickly, from 17 in 2001 to 325 events in 2008 in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

Today National Adoption Day is celebrated nationwide as hundreds events are held each year throughout the country to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt. In total, more than 25,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day during the last 10 years.

