



In the Name and by the Authority of

# THE STATE OF OHIO



**WHEREAS**, the theme for November 2025 is “National Adoption Month "Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds”; and

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

**WHEREAS**, more than 3,200 of those children and youth in foster care are waiting to be adopted and over 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 1,744 days, which is almost four years and ten months; and

**WHEREAS**, 306 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 by forever families; 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 forever families can be found at [FosterAndAdopt.jfs.ohio.gov/profiles](https://FosterAndAdopt.jfs.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

**WHEREAS**, it takes 100% Heart to Foster and Adopt in Ohio:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, *Mike DeWine and Jim Tressel*, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize designate November 2025 as

## ADOPTION RECOGNITION AND RECRUITMENT MONTH

on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2025;

Mike DeWine  
Governor



Jim Tressel  
Lieutenant Governor