In the Name and by the Authority of

THE STATE OF OHIO

WHEREAS, November is "National Adoption Month;" and

WHEREAS, 13,900 Ohio children currently reside in foster homes or other out-of-home settings; and

WHEREAS, 3,109 of those children and youth in foster care are waiting to be adopted, and 1,532 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 1,791 days, which is almost four years and eleven months; and

WHEREAS, 311 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; 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 designate November 2026 as

ADOPTION RECOGNITION AND RECRUITMENT MONTH

on this 1st day of November 2026;

Mike DeWine
Governor

Jim Tressel
Lieutenant Governor