

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **November Is National Adoption Month**

In November, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is joining Governor Ted Strickland and thousands of individuals, government agencies and child advocacy organizations across the nation in promoting National Adoption Month 2009. The goal of the campaign, “You Don’t Have to be Perfect to be a Perfect Parent,” is to spread awareness to recruit and retain foster and adoptive parents for our nation’s waiting children.

“National Adoption Month is an excellent time to reach out to potential adoptive parents, to let them know about the tremendous difference they can make in children’s lives,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. “It also is an excellent time to thank Ohio’s current foster and adoptive families for their compassion and commitment to providing safe, healthy and loving homes for Ohio’s children.”

During November, caring parents throughout Ohio will celebrate National Adoption Month by finalizing their adoptions and bringing home children in need of a hopeful life. More than 12,000 children in Ohio are currently in foster care, and more than 3,000 of those children are waiting for permanent placement with families. Nationally, approximately 513,000 children are in foster care, 114,000 of whom are waiting for permanent placement.

“Ohio has many children in need of adoption,” Lumpkin said. “They want a place to call home and a loving family to call their own. Take a moment to consider adoption and give a child something that every child deserves: a permanent home.”

For a free *Ohio Adoption Guide: Handbook for Prospective Adoptive Families*, go to <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/interfind.asp?formnum=01675>. For more information about National Adoption Month, go to <http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/highlights.cfm> or <http://www.youdonthavetobeperfect.com/home.php>.