

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November Is Adoption Recognition and Recruitment Month

COLUMBUS, OHIO – November is Adoption Recognition and Recruitment Month, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) joins Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted in honoring adoptive families throughout Ohio and raising awareness of the more than 3,000 Ohio children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

“Adoption enriches the lives of both children and the families who welcome them,” said Governor DeWine in his resolution recognizing the month. “The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and public and private child-caring agencies throughout the state work diligently to provide safe, stable, permanent homes for Ohio’s most vulnerable children.”

This year, the national theme for Adoption Month is “Every Conversation Matters.” This emphasizes the importance of taking the time to listen and learn from youth in foster care to help them find their forever family. Of the Ohio children in foster care waiting to be adopted, nearly 1,400 are 13 and older. Those older children have been in foster care for an average of four years and seven months. More than 200 of them will turn 18 in the next year and are at risk of transitioning out of the children services system without a forever family.

“All children and young adults deserve permanent, loving, forever families,” said ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder. “Youth are never too old to need permanent, lifelong relationships and meaningful connections to supportive adults to reach their full potential.”

Ohio’s [foster care and adoption website](#) includes profiles of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted. The profiles include children’s first names and ages, as well as hobbies, strengths and activities that reflect their personality and interests.

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

