

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 24, 2020

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Releases Media Toolkit on Adoption

COLUMBUS, OHIO – As National Adoption Month comes to a close, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is releasing an adoption toolkit.

“We are grateful to all of the families that have chosen the gift of adoption,” said ODJFS Director Kimberly Hall. “You are making a tremendous difference in the life of these children.”

The toolkit includes:

- State of Ohio’s Children Fact Sheet
 - Three thousand youth are currently available for adoption, with 1,012 of those children turning 18 in the next year, placing them at greatest risk of transitioning out of the children services system without a permanent family. To view the State of Ohio’s Children Fact Sheet, [click here](#).
- Ohio’s Adoption Photolisting
 - 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. To view the profiles, click [here](#).
- Children Services Transformation Advisory Council’s Final Report
 - Last week, the Governor released the Children Services Transformation Advisory Council Final Report. The report includes 37 recommendations on how to transform the children services system; six of these recommendations directly impact adoption. To read the report, click [here](#).
- Personal Stories (Videos)
 - Alexander, 11, loves to do magic tricks, color, and is looking for a family that he can spend time with and will care about him. Watch his story below:





- The Clemmons family has adopted three boys over the years, two of the boys being a sibling group. Watch their story below:



In 2012, the state of Ohio helped lead the way in expanding Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's national foster care adoption program, Wendy's Wonderful Kids. To date, more than 1,100 children have been adopted through the program in Ohio.

“Because of this groundbreaking partnership with Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and adoption agencies across the state, the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program is making a lifetime of impact by finding families for Ohio's youth who have been in care the longest and too often are overlooked,” said Rita Soronen, President & CEO of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. “National Adoption Month is a special time to celebrate adoptive families and affirm our commitment to securing permanent, loving homes for the nearly 3,000 children in Ohio still waiting to be welcomed home.”





**Department of
Job and Family Services**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Kimberly Hall, Director

News Release

There are stories like Alexander's and the Clemons family all across Ohio. Families interested in learning more about foster and adoption can visit FosterAndAdopt.jfs.ohio.gov. Media outlets interested in hearing from a family in your area may contact the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption Director of Marketing and Communication, Mary Ellen Smalley, at MaryEllen_Smalley@davethomasfoundation.org.

If you would like to receive updates on foster care and adoption in Ohio, follow our "It Takes Heart Ohio" social media on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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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.

