



October 30, 2015

## November is National Adoption Month

More than 100,000 children and youth in the U.S. foster care system are awaiting permanent families, and National Adoption Month in November is a great time to raise awareness about the adoption of older children from foster care.

“We want to thank the many Iowans who have adopted children from the foster care system, and encourage others who are considering this caring and courageous endeavor to learn more about how older children and teens can become part of their family,” said Wendy Rickman, DHS’s administrator of Adult, Children and Family Services. “Older kids don’t outgrow the need for a family. Having a permanent family changes these children’s lives, and gives them the opportunity for a safe, stable and healthy future.”

If you want to learn about adopting from Iowa’s foster care system, visit the Iowa KidsNet website at <http://www.iowakidsnet.com/> and we’ll connect you with more information.

The goal for many children in foster care is to safely reunite with their birth families, but that’s not always possible. Many children waiting to be adopted from foster care are often older, part of a sibling group, and have behavioral or special needs. If you adopt from foster care, you can access ongoing support, including help from a post-adoption support specialist. To adopt a child from foster care in Iowa, you must be a licensed foster or approved adoptive family. See more details on the licensing process here:

<http://www.iowakidsnet.com/content/start-process>

Iowa leads the nation in timeliness of adoptions from the foster care system, and finalized 975 adoptions in SFY2015.

“Iowans open their hearts and homes to hundreds of children each year, but many more are waiting for their forever family,” said Tracey Parker, adoption program manager for DHS. “We want Iowans to know that we support families who share their lives with children who have experienced abuse or neglect, and who need of a safe, loving home.”

To learn more about National Adoption Month visit:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/>