

Answering the Call



You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who would love to put up with you.

NOVEMBER 2008 National Adoption Month Activities

Photos are from the national adoption recruitment campaign of the Children's Bureau, the Adoption Exchange Association, and The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids, in conjunction with the Ad Council.

Saturday

1 Invite foster and adoptive families to a National Adoption Month kick-off celebration, and invite local media.

Sunday

2 Collaborate with other local agencies on an adoption celebration event or recruitment effort.

Monday

3 Visit Child Welfare Information Gateway for successful recruitment strategies: www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/foster/rpr/

Tuesday

4 Conduct an adoption informational meeting at a community library.

Wednesday

5 Refer prospective parents to **AdoptUsKids**.

Thursday

6 Submit an editorial on adoption and foster care to local papers.

Friday

7 Encourage local media to run public service announcements on adoption.

8 Give faith leaders tools for issuing a "call to action" on finding families for waiting children.

9 Ask local businesses to sponsor an adoption walk or run charity event.

10 Organize an adoption informational meeting for employees of a large local company.

11 Create or update a pamphlet of local resources for foster and adoptive families.

12 Reconnect with families who expressed an interest in adoption.

13 Advertise your event and learn about others on the National Adoption Day website.

14 Host a meeting to educate local schools about adoption. National Adoption Month website has ideas.

15 National Adoption Day! Participate in a local event celebrating adoption.

16 Organize an adoption event at a place of worship or community center.

17 Host an agency-wide coffee break and show the public service announcements for teen adoption.

18 Have families share their adoption stories with potential foster and adoptive parents.

19 Invite an adopted adult to speak of his or her experiences with prospective foster and adoptive parents.

20 Enhance your agency's recruitment plan with new strategies from AdoptUsKids and Information Gateway.

21 Arrange to display children's art or poetry at a local gallery, airport, or library.

22 Host a recruitment event and movie day for foster and adoptive families at a local theater.

23 Ask clergy to talk about the need for adoptive parents for older children.

24 Remind waiting families to visit: www.adoptuskids.org

25 Start a new adoptive parent support group.

26 Work with local media to develop a waiting child program or PSA campaign.

27 Thanksgiving! Encourage foster and adoptive families to celebrate old and new traditions.

28 Create a handout on children in your agency awaiting adoptive or foster families.

29 Throw a party for families that have adopted through your agency and their friends.

30 Strategize to develop ways to celebrate and promote adoption throughout the year.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau



- Adoption Month Resources:**
- Child Welfare Information Gateway**
www.childwelfare.gov
 - National Adoption Month Website
 - National Foster Care and Adoption Directory
 - Adoption Assistance by State

- AdoptUsKids**
www.adoptuskids.org
 - Adoption Month Toolkit
 - Answering the Call Publications
 - Training and Technical Assistance

