

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve to be raised in safe and loving homes; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington recognizes the importance of legally free foster children finding permanent and nurturing families through adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 8,800 children in Washington are currently in foster care, with more than 1,400 of them legally free and waiting to join new families; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 20,000 foster youth nationwide “age out” of foster care without ever finding permanent families; and

**WHEREAS**, outreach to adoptive families has been identified as a critical step in moving children more quickly out of the foster system and into loving homes; and

**WHEREAS**, to raise awareness of the many foster children waiting to join new families, courts across Washington will celebrate the state’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Adoption Day on or around November 20;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2015, as

### *Adoption Day*

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee

