

**RESOLUTION DECLARING NOVEMBER 2017 AS ADOPTION AWARENESS
MONTH IN FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)**

WHEREAS, Forsyth County recognizes the importance of giving children in foster care permanent, safe and loving families through adoption; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves the chance to grow up in a loving, stable family; and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 children in the United States are in the foster care system and are waiting to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, more than 10,000 children in North Carolina are waiting for permanent families; and

WHEREAS, more than 190 children in Forsyth County, North Carolina are in foster care, 21 of whom are legally free for adoption and of that number 17 children are not in an adoptive placement and are waiting for permanent families; and

WHEREAS, in Forsyth County eighteen percent (18%) of the children who need adoptive homes are five years of age and under, forty one percent (41%) are between six and twelve years of age, and another forty one percent (41%) are between thirteen and eighteen years of age, and many of the children are siblings and need to be placed together; and

WHEREAS, The Children's Home Society, Crossnore School, and Children's Home are community agencies that partner to secure permanency for children in Forsyth and surrounding counties. Each agency focuses on supporting children and families to achieve permanency while assisting children and families in need of quality services. Each agency has a strong working relationship with the judicial system, mental health providers, law enforcement, and other service providers in the community; and

WHEREAS, this action along with similar recognitions in all 50 states around the country will offer children the chance to live with stable and loving families and encourage other dedicated individuals to make a powerful difference in the lives of a child through adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby declares November 2017 as **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the residents of Forsyth County are encouraged to join in raising awareness on behalf of the children in Forsyth County who are waiting for a loving family regardless of race, age, gender, health, emotional or behavioral condition, or past distress.

Adopted this 9th day of November 2017.