



Adoption Month History

The first major effort to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in the foster care system occurred in Massachusetts. In 1976, then-Governor Mike Dukakis proclaimed Adoption Week and the idea grew in popularity and spread throughout the nation. President Gerald Ford made the first National Adoption Week proclamation, and in 1990, the week was expanded to a month due to the number of states participating and the number of events.

Adoption Awareness month is now observed in Canada, UK, and parts of Mexico. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about the adoption process, concerns and to debunk myths. The myths that surround adoption have become barriers to families considering adoption and ultimately to children internationally and in foster care finding their forever family.

During the month, communities, adoption professionals, businesses, families, and individuals celebrate adoption as a positive way to build families. Across the nation, activities and observances such as recognition dinners, public awareness and recruitment campaigns, and special events spotlight the needs of children who need permanent families.

One day is allocated as National Adoption Day. The Friday or Saturday of the weekend before American Thanksgiving (American Thanksgiving is the third Thursday of November) is a day when thousands of adoptions are finalized throughout the United States. In Canada, we have set aside the Friday (November 20th) as National Adoption Day and we encourage all Canadians to participate by celebrating how adoption has touched their lives (we are all touched by adoption in some way).

