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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2015**

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## **November Is National Adoption Awareness Month**

**Families and advocates across Nevada are promoting  
permanency for children**

**Carson City, NV**— November is National Adoption Awareness Month, and Nevada is honoring the families and workers who work tirelessly to ensure that the children in the foster care system find their forever families.

This year, National Adoption Month focuses on the older youth in care, with the theme “We Never Outgrow the Need for Family.” From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, just 7 percent — 56 of the 790 — of youths adopted statewide were over the age of 13.

“We must remember that the older youth need homes too,” said Tracey Somers, the rural region adoption recruiter for the state Division of Child and Family Services. “Adolescence is a time in life where supportive adults and caring role models are needed in critical ways. Every child is adoptable, and there is a family out there for every child, we just need to find them.”

In addition to Gov. Brian Sandoval’s official proclamation of November as National Adoption Month in Nevada, there are several special events all around the Silver State. Ceremonies in Clark County, Washoe County and Elko will see more than 70 adoptions finalized, accounting for more than 10% of average annual adoptions in Nevada.

### **National Adoption Month activities in Nevada**

- Nov. 14 – “Have a Heart” football game at the University of Nevada, Reno with tailgating celebration. Wolf Pack head coach Brian Polian and his wife, Laura, will talk about their experiences adopting their son, Aidan. Also, Nathan and Patricia Smith are being honored

during the game for their role as foster parents with Washoe County. They have two biological children, have adopted five children and are currently fostering three children.

- Nov. 18 – 50 families will have their adoptions finalized in Family Court in Clark County
- Nov. 20 – 17 adoptions will be finalized in Washoe County.
- Nov. 21 – A celebration for National Adoption Month at the Boys and Girls Club of Elko from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- 10 adoptions for children from rural counties will be finalized in the month of November.

For more information on how to become a foster/adoptive family in [Clark County](#) call Clark County Dept. of Family Services at (702) 455-0181.

For more information on how to become a foster/adoptive family in the [Rural Region](#) call (888) 423-2659.

For more information on how to become a foster/adoptive family in [Washoe County](#) call (775) 337-4470 or visit [www.haveaheartnv.org](http://www.haveaheartnv.org).

*“As we come together to give thanks and show our appreciation for the professionals who work tirelessly to ensure the adoption process runs smoothly and efficiently, we celebrate the stories of those who have been permanently and positively affected by adoption. During National Adoption Month, let us embrace the unique place adoptive families have in America, and let us extend our fullest gratitude to all those who have welcomed home a child in need.”*

— [Declaration by President Barack Obama](#)

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Helping People – It's Who We Are and What We Do