

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, all children deserve strong families with mothers and fathers who are there to protect and love them, and every year hundreds of Hillsborough County, Florida families extend the gift of family to a child through adoption, providing a unique opportunity to improve children's lives and enrich the lives of adoptive parents, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, during National Adoption Month we recognize the compassion of adoptive and foster families and renew our pledge to finding loving and stable homes for children in need; and

WHEREAS, approximately 104,000 foster children in the United States of America, 750 of those in the state of Florida and 97 in Hillsborough County, are currently available for adoption without an identified family to adopt them and these children include teenagers, sibling groups, and those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, the Month of November is known as **Adoption Recognition Month** and November 23, 2013 is **National Adoption Day** throughout the United States with various celebrations planned that will offer children the opportunity for loving forever families, while encouraging others to consider the joys that come with adoption; and

WHEREAS, in Hillsborough County, Florida, the Thirteenth Judicial Court, Eckerd Community Alternatives | Hillsborough and its Case Management Agencies, Guardian ad Litem, Children's Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay, and other community organizations will join together to celebrate November as National Adoption Month in an effort to raise awareness of foster care adoption in Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, November 15, 2013 the George E. Edgecomb Courthouse will open its doors to host **Hillsborough National Adoption Day**, with the theme **Adoption = Love**, and invites the Tampa community to witness the happiness of adoption finalizations, celebrate adoptive families, and bring awareness to those foster children still awaiting adoption; and

WHEREAS, these fortunate children will celebrate the finalization of their adoptions, have their first new family portrait made, and go to their new homes, secure in the love of families they can now call their own; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2013 as

"HILLSBOROUGH NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in honoring the many caring families and individuals who have made a difference in a child's life through adoption.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30th day of October, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor