

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, the month of November has been proclaimed “**National Adoption Month**” and it offers the opportunity to increase awareness of the need for prospective adoptive and foster parents, to recognize and appreciate the compassion of adoptive and foster families, and to renew our pledge to find loving and stable homes for children in need; and

**WHEREAS**, established in 1988, **One Church, One Child (OCOC) of Florida, Inc.** is a private, non-profit, faith-based organization that provides adoptions and foster care related services including support, training, and independent adoption services; and

**WHEREAS**, One Church, One Child has been instrumental in finding adoptive and foster homes for children, and is contracted by the Florida Department of Children and Families and it partners with churches, community-based care agencies and similar organizations, and provides awareness, support and training to families and community agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, at any given time, there are approximately 800 children in Florida’s foster care system, with over 50 percent of those minority children, and with the goal of “*finding at least one family per church to adopt at least one child*,” One Church, One Child’s mission is to find prospective adoptive and foster families for minority children in Florida’s foster care system, and its vision is to ensure these young people are timely and successfully placed into permanent adoptive homes; and

**WHEREAS**, One Church, One Child, in support of their mission, sponsors back-to-school drives, provides holiday gifts for children and families, and coordinates community events and activities that support the children and local families, and brings important awareness regarding the need for permanent adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of National Adoption Month, One Church, One Child of Florida is hosting the **Suncoast Region One Church, One Child of Florida Partnership Appreciation Program** on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at Greater Mount Carmel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tampa, Florida. With the theme “*You are a valuable link to bringing hope to our Children*,” the event will feature honoring the many churches, business partners, organizations, media, and volunteers who have been instrumental in the success of many of Florida’s children finding permanent, loving homes through adoption.

**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 2014 as

## “ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD OF FLORIDA MONTH”

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

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor