

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, November 2002 is Adoption Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, all children need love, support, security, and a permanent place to call home; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Mississippi, over 3,000 children live away from their birth families in substitute care; and

WHEREAS, 327 of these children cannot return to their birth families and need the security and nurturing a permanent family can provide; and

WHEREAS, adoption is the permanency plan for approximately 116 of these children; and

WHEREAS, nearly all of these children have special needs because of physical, mental, or emotional disabilities—because they must be placed as a sibling group, because they are minorities, or because they are older; and

WHEREAS, there are families able and willing to adopt children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, children waiting for adoptive parents as well as families who have adopted these children require and deserve community and agency support; and

WHEREAS, participating Wendy's in the State of Mississippi will donate a percentage of all sales on November 24, 2002, to Adoption efforts in Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim November 24, 2002, as

CHILDREN'S DAY OF HOPE

in the State of Mississippi and encourage our citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, businesses, and all others to participate in all **Children's Day of Hope** activities, to bring awareness of children who are still waiting for a permanent home—I urge Mississippians to celebrate adoption, to honor families that grow through adoption, and to focus on those children who live with the burden of an uncertain future while they await permanent families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, November 1, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR