

**A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

**WHEREAS**, all November 2003, is Adoption Awareness Month; and

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

**WHEREAS**, in the State of Mississippi, over 3000 children live away from their birth families in substitute care; and

**WHEREAS**, 290 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 142 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 23, 2003 to Adoption efforts in Mississippi:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim November 23, 2003 as

**CHILDREN'S DAY OF HOPE**

in the State of Mississippi.

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, October 28, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR