

*Remarks for the
DHS Adoption Awareness PC
November 10, 2003*

■ Recognize

- Thelma Brittain
- Cory Wofford
- Wanda Gillom

■ Appreciate the opportunity to be here with
you today

- Even more, appreciate the work you do
for our children
- It benefits all Mississippians

■ Every child in Mississippi needs love,
support, security and a place to call home

- Unfortunately, not every child has a family to come home to after a day at school or a week at summer camp

- In Mississippi, over 3,000 children live away from their birth families

- Of these 3,000 children, almost 300 of them can not return to their birth families and need the love a security a permanent family can provide

- They need families who are willing to provide care for children that have special needs because of physical, mental or emotional disabilities or who must be placed with their brothers or sisters

- That is why I have declared November as Adoption Awareness Month in the State of Mississippi

- There are families who are able and willing to adopt these children
 - After all, Mississippi's children make up 1/3 of our population, but they are all of our future

- I urge Mississippians who are able, to step forward and help provide a loving, secure and stable environment for the children of Mississippi