



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia there is hereby officially recognized:

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the choice to adopt is a lifelong commitment, and the kinship, foster and adoptive families who make that decision embody the compassion, strength and generous spirit of which Virginians are so proud; and

WHEREAS, the family is the cornerstone of our society through which we transmit the values and traditions of the past and under whose guidance children are prepared to become productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's future depends on our children, and our Commonwealth is committed to assisting every child in foster care in finding the nurturing love, support, security, and sense of responsibility that families can provide; and

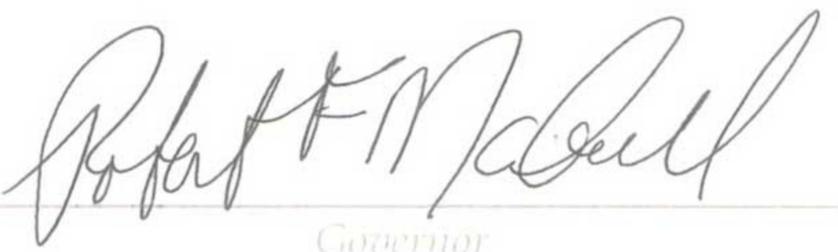
WHEREAS, as of September 2010 there were 6,161 children in Virginia's foster care system, of which 1,407 have the goal of adoption and need assistance in finding stability; and

WHEREAS, last year Virginians who believe the axiom that children do best when raised in caring, stable families contributed to improving the lives of over 2,000 children by helping them leave foster care for the love, support and security of permanent families; and

WHEREAS, partnering with organizations, support systems and persons in communities is necessary to provide quality services to our families, children and youth, and is fitting to applaud all who function on the same level of commitment to children in the foster care system and serving families as our Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize November 2010 as **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth