



DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption Foster Care Adoption Awareness FACT SHEET

THE CAUSE:

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. It has been celebrated annually since 1990 to draw national attention to the growing number of children in America's foster care system who are available for adoption and wait for permanent families.

THE NEED

- Children enter foster care through no fault of their own. They are permanently removed from their homes as victims of child abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- More than 129,000 children in foster care are available for adoption. Their birth parents' legal rights have been permanently terminated and they are left without a family.
- More than half of these children are nine years of age or older.
- They often move three or more times in foster care and frequently are separated from siblings.
- Any one of these children could wait up to five years or more to be adopted. Five years is a lifetime to a child.
- 26,000 children available for adoption turned 18 and left the system without a family last year.

THE OPPORTUNITY

- Every child is adoptable. All children deserve the chance to grow up in a safe, loving, permanent home.
- Foster care adoption is affordable. Most child welfare agencies cover the necessary costs; thousands of employers offer financial reimbursement and paid leave for adoption; and tax credits are available to most families.
- Post-adoption counseling, resources and subsidies are available to most families adopting from foster care.
- Generating public awareness is the first step to finding forever families for children waiting in foster care.

THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a national nonprofit 501(c)3 public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the adoptions of the more than 150,000 children in North America's foster care systems waiting to be adopted. Created by Wendy's® founder, Dave Thomas, who was adopted as a child, the Foundation implements programs such as *Wendy's Wonderful Kids*, placing adoption recruiters throughout the U.S. and Canada to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system, and *Adoption-Friendly Workplace*, encouraging employers to offer adoption benefits to their employees. The Foundation also works with adoption advocates and officials to streamline the adoption process and make adoption more affordable for families. As the only foundation dedicated exclusively to foster care adoption, we are driven by Dave's simple value: Do what's best for the child. To learn more about the Foundation's work, please visit www.DaveThomasFoundationForAdoption.org.