

This November, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources will join thousands of individuals, government agencies and child advocacy organizations across the nation in promoting National Adoption Month 2009. Since 1990, the nation has proclaimed November as National Adoption Month to focus attention on the thousands of children in the child welfare system who are waiting for a permanent, loving home. The goal of the campaign is to spread awareness and to recruit and retain foster and adoptive parents for our nation's waiting children. Nationally there are approximately 129,000 children in foster care who are waiting for permanent families.

To help raise awareness of the need for adoptive and foster parents and to celebrate those families who have adopted, this year during National Adoption Month West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources along with Mission West Virginia and the Recruitment and Retention Collaborative will be holding an Adoption Celebration. This will be held on Saturday November 21, 2009 at the Clay Center in Charleston. The event will begin at 3:00pm and end at approximately 6:30. This event will feature paid admission to several of the Clay Center museums from 3:00 – 4:45, light refreshments and a children's activity from 4:45 – 5:30 and speakers, the reading of West Virginia's Adoption Proclamation and a candlelight vigil from 5:30 – 6:30. For more information you may contact Maggie Molitor, Adoption Program Policy Specialist, at [maggie.w.molitor@wv.gov](mailto:maggie.w.molitor@wv.gov) or 304-558-5734 or you may contact Kelly Thompson, Director Frameworks, at [kthompson@missionwv.org](mailto:kthompson@missionwv.org) or 304-562-0723 or you may visit [www.missionwv/frameworks](http://www.missionwv/frameworks) for more information. To view children who are awaiting adoption, please visit [www.adoptwvchild.org](http://www.adoptwvchild.org) or <http://www.adoptuskids.org>