

30 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

National Adoption Awareness Month

NOVEMBER 2006



1 Ask your library to display adoption books to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month. Find a list of appropriate books: adoptivefamilies.com/outreach.

2 Talk to your employer about offering an adoption assistance plan. For more information, see adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org and adoptivefamilies.com/outreach.

3 Ask your local TV or radio station to feature a waiting child in your state. See adoptuskids.org for more information.

4 Find an adult adoptee to serve as a mentor for your child. Arrange for them to get together monthly.

5 Start a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together.

6 Find out where your representatives at the state and national level stand on adoption issues. Write them regarding your concerns.

7 Print "Accurate Adoption Language" from the *Adoptive Families* Web site at adoptivefamilies.com/clip, and send it to your local newspaper.

8 Print the handout "8 Myths and Realities About Adoption" from adoptivefamilies.com/outreach. Distribute it in your community, school, and place of worship.

9 Send a donation to your favorite national or local adoption organization. See a list of worthy ones at adoptivefamilies.com/outreach.

10 Donate a set of adoption books for children to your local elementary school. Find a book list here: adoptivefamilies.com/school.

11 Spend some time celebrating your child's heritage. For recipes, activities, and other ideas, visit adoptivefamilies.com/heritage.

12 Invite local adoptive families to your home for hot chocolate and cookies. Announce the event in your community newspaper.

13 Pass along an adoption-related article to another adoptive parent or friend.

14 Give an adoption talk at school. See "How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade" at adoptivefamilies.com/school.

15 Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.

16 Start a tradition of taking a family photograph each year on the same day so you can see how the family has changed.

17 Develop a family ritual to show thanks for your family and the special way you've found one another. See adoptivefamilies.com/heritage for ideas.

18 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY! Courts across the country will finalize thousands of adoptions today. See nationaladoptionday.org for more information.

19 Find a family adoption event near you on adoptivefamilies.com/calendar.

20 Read "How to Become an Adoption Advocate" on the *Adoptive Families* Web site at adoptivefamilies.com/clip.

21 Join an adoptive parent support group. Find one near you at adoptivefamilies.com/support_group.

22 Rent a DVD that portrays adoption in a positive light for your family to watch and discuss. Try *Immediate Family*, *Losing Isaiah*, or *Secrets and Lies*.

23 THANKSGIVING! Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.

24 Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or Scout group.

25 Send a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" letter to media or companies, according to the way they address adoption. Send a copy to *Adoptive Families*.

26 Help your place of worship organize a service to give thanks for children. Find an adoption liturgy at adoptivefamilies.com/rituals.

27 Together, light a candle in honor of your child's birthparents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flames.

28 Plan craft activities to make holiday ornaments that incorporate designs from your child's heritage.

29 Donate to an adoption-related charity or organization. See adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid=1236 for a reader-nominated list.

30 Write an account of a local adoptive family that has done something noteworthy for adoption and send it to your local newspaper.

