KERN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

Lito Morillo
Director

November 10, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PROCLAIM NOVEMBER 2026 AS NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH IN KERN COUNTY
(Fiscal Impact: None)

On November 20, 2026, the Department of Human Services will host its 23rd Annual National Adoption Day Event. In partnership with the Kern County Superior Court, CASA of Kern County, Koinonia Foster Homes, Aspiranet, the CARE Foundation, Kern Bridges, and the Bakersfield Angels, we will celebrate the children finding permanent families and honor the families who are opening their hearts and homes to them.

The event will begin with a press conference at 9:30 a.m. in the courtroom of the Honorable Judge Christie Norris, who will preside over the first adoption of the day. We invite your Board to join us for this special occasion. Following the press conference, dozens of children are expected to be legally adopted from foster care into their forever families. Families completing private adoptions through the Family Law Court will also participate in the outdoor festivities.

November is recognized as National Adoption Awareness Month, bringing attention to children in foster care who are waiting for permanent, loving families. Currently, just over 2,000 children are living in foster care in Kern County. These children, ranging in age from newborns to 21 years old, enter foster care because of abuse or neglect. Some are siblings who need to remain together, while others have physical, mental, or emotional disabilities and may require additional support and care.

While many children live with relatives as their parents work toward reunification, the primary goal is to safely reunite families whenever possible. When reunification is not possible, adoption provides children with the opportunity to grow up in a permanent, stable, and loving family.

We commend the adoptive parents who make a lifelong commitment to providing children with love, security, and a sense of belonging. We also recognize the relatives and foster parents who open their homes and hearts to children and take the extraordinary step of making that commitment permanent through adoption.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board proclaim the month of November as National Adoption Awareness Month in Kern County, prepare a proclamation recognizing the Department of Human Services Adoption Agency and adoptive families for their roles in providing permanency for children in Kern County, and make presentation.

Sincerely,

L. Morillo

Lito Morillo
Director

cc: CAO