

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Adoption Awareness Month is a celebration of all North Carolina adoptions;

WHEREAS, the 2012 theme for Adoption Awareness Month is You Don't Have to be Perfect to be a Perfect Parent, North Carolina families are encouraged to share their hearts and homes with children waiting to be adopted;

WHEREAS, every child deserves the opportunity to grow up in a loving, stable family and adoption is one way to build a family;

WHEREAS, caring adults can make all the difference in the lives of young people, sibling groups and children of different ethnicities;

WHEREAS, in 2011, 1394 children in North Carolina were adopted from foster care;

WHEREAS, each county Department of Social Services of the State of North Carolina, Foster Care and Adoption Unit, works diligently to place foster children in adoptive homes; and

WHEREAS, NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network, within the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services, recruits approved adoptive families in the hope of placing current special needs foster children who are awaiting adoption;.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Allen M. Thomas, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2012, as

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

in Greenville and commend its observance to all citizens as an opportunity to celebrate foster and adoptive families and spread awareness on behalf of the hundreds of foster children in North Carolina who are waiting for a loving family. I further encourage communities, businesses, groups, schools, faith-based organizations and families to participate in finding permanent loving families for North Carolina's waiting foster children.

This 8th day of November, 2012.

Allen M. Thomas, Mayor