



WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Gaston County residents are important to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our families, and community; and,

WHEREAS, every child deserves love, support, security, and a permanent place to call home; and,

WHEREAS, there are thirty-six children in Gaston County foster care currently awaiting loving and permanent adoptive families with another one hundred and twenty two with permanent plans of adoption; and,

WHEREAS, not all children waiting to be adopted are newborns; many older youth who live in foster care desire to be adopted, just as many siblings who are separated in foster care long to be adopted by the same family; and,

WHEREAS, these children can thrive and reach their full potential when given a firm foundation and love from a family with a desire to parent a child who would otherwise not have permanency in their lives; and,

WHEREAS, the collaboration of both public and private adoption agencies along with community agencies, religious organizations, businesses, and others should be recognized for their commitment to the needs of children throughout Gaston County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of November 2017 as

## **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH**

and in honor of this event, we encourage citizens, community agencies, the faith community, organizations, businesses, and others to celebrate adoption, honor the families, and focus attention on those children who live in the shadow of an uncertain future while they await permanent families. We all must work together to help secure permanent, loving homes for each and every child in Gaston County.

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Allen R. Fraley

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Tom Keigher

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Donald J. Grant, Jr.

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Tracy L. Philbeck

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Bob Hovis

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Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman

To be Adopted the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of November 2017