



- WHEREAS, we have a responsibility as individuals, neighbors, community members and citizens of Gaston County to recognize that all children need love, support, security and a place to call home; and,
- WHEREAS, for children who are born into families unable to meet their ongoing needs, adoption offers healthy and safe family environments, which help produce confident and successful adults; and,
- WHEREAS, families who choose the life-changing path of adoption make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable young people in our society; 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, during adoption month, we celebrate all those who have invited a child in need into their hearts and into their homes, and express our profound appreciation for all who help make adoptions possible; 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 that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of November 2019 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.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown, Vice-Chairman

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley