

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2018/544

Adoption Awareness Month

WHEREAS, all children, infants, toddlers, school-aged and older youth, deserve a safe, loving and supportive environment and a place to call home; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County comes together as a community to celebrate our community's adoptive families and raise awareness about the number of children and teens who are still waiting for a permanent home; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 Children and Family Services (CFS), a bureau of the Employment and Human Services Department, completed its first-ever non-minor dependent adoption; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, adoption was the permanency plan for 124 children in Contra Costa County, including adoptions by former foster parents, family members, and non-relatives, with 33 percent over eight years old; and

WHEREAS, CFS' comprehensive recruitment efforts include attention toward filling the need for Resource Families to specifically place older youth and those with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, nearly 2,000 children in the County are receiving adoption assistance and post-adoption support; and

WHEREAS, adoptions are one of the successful outcomes that can play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, adopted children and teens need extra patience and support to help them overcome previous hardships, obtain stable home environments, or receive placements as part of a sibling group; and

WHEREAS many of these children have special needs related to physical, mental or emotional disabilities and need the support that adoptive families can provide; and

WHEREAS, there are families able and willing to adopt children who have a range of needs; and

WHEREAS, there are no restrictions on who can adopt based on race, ethnicity, religion, physical ability, income, sexual orientation or expression, gender identity, marital status; and

WHEREAS, adoption of children by family members encourages increased stability, higher levels of permanency, more likelihood of staying connected to siblings, greater preservation of cultural identity, and positive behavioral and mental health outcomes due to placements with relative caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the many children in our local foster care program need and deserve the security and nurturing of permanent families, whether they are related or not; and

WHEREAS, Children & Family Services in Contra Costa County offers concurrent planning, enabling the placement of children in a potential adoptive home while working with the birth family to help overcome challenges and support reunification efforts; and

WHEREAS, adoptive parents and families who have adopted children require and deserve community and public agency support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Supervisors, does hereby proclaim November 2018 as Adoption Awareness Month in Contra Costa County.

KAREN MITCHOFF
Chair, District IV Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: November 6, 2018

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy