

30 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

National Adoption Awareness Month

N O V E M B E R 2 0 0 8



1 Start a tradition of taking a family photo each year on the same day so you can see how everyone's changed. Then, share your shot with AF readers at familyalbum.adoptivefamilies.com.

2 Ask your library to display adoption books to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month. Find editors' picks for great titles at adoptivefamilies.com/books.

3 Talk to your employer about offering an adoption assistance plan. Learn more at adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org and adoptivefamilies.com/topcompanies.

4 Invite local adoptive families to your home for hot chocolate and cookies or a multi-cultural buffet. Announce the event in your community newspaper.

5 Find out where your representatives at the state and national level stand on adoption issues. Write to them regarding your concerns.

6 Create a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together. Get started with tips and tools at adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks.

7 Ask your local television or radio station to feature a waiting child in your state. See adoptuskids.org for more information.

8 Make an effort to help someone who is considering adoption. If you're a parent, tell them about the highs, the lows, the unforgettable moments. Tell them why you'd do it all over again!

9 Find an adult adoptee or a person of color—a coach, a teacher, or a babysitter—who can serve as a mentor for your child. Arrange for them to get together monthly.

10 Print the hand-out "8 Myths and Realities About Adoption" from adoptivefamilies.com/outreach. Distribute it in your community, school, and place of worship.

11 Spend some time celebrating your child's heritage. For recipes, activities, and other ideas, visit adoptivefamilies.com/heritage.

12 Help your place of worship organize a service to give thanks for children. Find an adoption liturgy at adoptivefamilies.com/rituals.

13 Pass along an adoption-related article to another adoptive parent or friend. While you're at it, buy your friend a subscription to *Adoptive Families* magazine.

14 Give an adoption talk at school. See "How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade" at adoptivefamilies.com/school.

15 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY! Courts across the country will finalize thousands of adoptions today. See nationaladoptionday.org for more information.

16 Print "Accurate Adoption Language" from the *Adoptive Families* website at adoptivefamilies.com/clip, and send it to your local newspaper.

17 Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.

18 Develop a family ritual to show thanks for your family and the special way you've found one another. See adoptivefamilies.com/rituals for ideas.

19 Find a family adoption event near you—or add your own—at adoptivefamilies.com/calendar.

20 Read "How to Become an Adoption Advocate" on the *Adoptive Families* website at adoptivefamilies.com/clip.

21 Join an adoptive parent support group. Find a group near you at adoptivefamilies.com/supportgroup.

22 Rent a DVD that portrays adoption in a positive light for your family to watch and discuss. Try *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Immediate Family*, or *Losing Isaiah*.

23 Let your child contribute a portion of his allowance to an orphanage or foster family.

24 Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or Scout group.

25 Send a thumbs up" or "thumbs down" letter to a media outlet or company, applauding or critiquing the way they address adoption. Send a copy to AF.

26 Together, light a candle in honor of your child's birthparents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flames.

27 THANKSGIVING! Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.

28 Make a donation in your child's or birthmother's name to an adoption-related charity or organization. See adoptivefamilies.com/givingback for a reader-nominated list.

29 Write an account of a local adoptive family that has done something noteworthy for adoption and send it to your local newspaper.

30 Make holiday crafts that incorporate designs from your child's heritage.