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859 Riverside Drive, #11  
Greenwood, IN 46142  
(317) 407-8422  
[adoptionART.org](http://adoptionART.org)

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### CONTACT

Laurie Goldheim  
[adoptdirector@adoptionart.org](mailto:adoptdirector@adoptionart.org)  
(845) 624-2727

### THE ACADEMY OF ADOPTION & ASSISTED REPRODUCTION ATTORNEYS CELEBRATES NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

(GREENWOOD, INDIANA, NOVEMBER 14, 2019) – November is National Adoption Month, a month set aside to raise awareness about the urgent need for adoptive families for more than 123,000 children of all ages waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States. AAAA salutes all of the adoptive parents, social workers, attorneys, judges and court staff and other public servants who dedicate time this month to assure children have permanent homes in time for the holidays.

The history of National Adoption Month dates back to 1976 when Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis announced the first adoption week. In 1984 President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week. President Clinton expanded the awareness week to the entire month of November in 1998.

The first National Adoption Day was inspired by the innovative efforts of Michael Nash, a former presiding judge of Los Angeles County's Juvenile Court. He opened the court on Saturdays, engaged the volunteer efforts of court personnel and finalized adoptions to reduce the backlog of one of the busiest courts in the nation. Today, policymakers, practitioners and advocates collaborate to plan these annual, one-day events in 400 cities across the United States. To date, the dreams of more than 70,000 children in foster care have come true as part of National Adoption Day events.

The Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA) is a credentialed, non-profit organization dedicated to the competent and ethical practice of adoption and assisted reproduction law. It advocates for laws and policies to protect the best interests of children, the legal status of families formed through adoption and assisted reproduction, and the rights of all interested parties. It is represented by over 500 attorneys or "Fellows" from the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Israel and the United Kingdom who focus their law practices on adoption law, assisted reproductive technology law (ART) or both. AAAA is headquartered in Greenwood, Indiana. For more information, visit us at [adoptionART.org](http://adoptionART.org).