

City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 18, 2003 Council Session

Item C3

Proclamation "Adoption Awareness Month" November, 2003

Whereas, every child deserves a loving, nurturing, and permanent family. There are many children with special needs in the state of Nebraska waiting for adoptive parents and families. The Mayor has proclaimed the month of November 2003 as "Adoption Awareness Month" and encourages community agencies, religious organizations, businesses, and others to celebrate adoption, honor families that grow through adoption, further an awareness of the changes and issues in adoption, and focus attention on those children who live in the shadow of uncertain futures while they await permanent families. See attached PROCLAMATION.

Staff Contact: Mayor Vavricek

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR City of Grand Island State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every child deserves a loving, nurturing, and permanent family. Sadly, abused and neglected children in the care of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are waiting for such a home. These children are not the newborns most people picture when they think of adoption. Generally they are older boys and girls and teenagers who have unique medical, emotional, or physical needs; and

- WHEREAS, adoption gives them a brighter future, brings great joy to the adoptive parents, and places fewer demands on social services; and
- WHEREAS, approximately 225 children in the state of Nebraska and 50 children in the Tri-City area are waiting for an adoptive family; and
- WHEREAS, approximately 42 children were adopted in 2002 in Hall County, Adams County and Buffalo County, combined.; and
- WHEREAS, nearly all these children have special needs because of physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, because they must be placed with other siblings, because they are children of color, or because they are school-aged; and
- WHEREAS, these children need extra patience and support to help them overcome previous hardships; and
- WHEREAS, families are able and willing to adopt children who have special needs; and
- WHEREAS, it is important to stress that a disability, low income, or being single does not disqualify individuals from adopting; and
- WHEREAS, children waiting for adoptive parents and families who have adopted these children require and deserve community and agency support.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Vavricek, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the month of November, 2003 as



"ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Grand Island, and encourage community agencies, religious organizations, businesses, and others to celebrate adoption, honor families that grow through adoption, further an awareness of the changes and issues in adoption, and focus attention on those children who live in the shadow of uncertain futures while they await permanent families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Grand Island to be affixed this eighteenth day of the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Three.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

