

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY
WASHINGTON**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Adoption Day is celebrated annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, adoption professionals throughout the country strive to provide permanent, safe and loving families for children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, over 129,000 children in the United States foster care system are available for adoption; and

WHEREAS, each year more children enter the foster care system than are adopted and the typical child available for adoption is age nine years or older with an average wait of more than five years to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200 children in Snohomish County are legally free from the foster care system and are awaiting adoption; many of whom are already living in their prospective adoptive homes while others still seek permanent, nurturing adoptive families; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County Superior Court has led the effort to make National Adoption Day a meaningful, local event in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Superior Court of Snohomish County will celebrate National Adoption Day, Friday, November 20, by finalizing the adoptions of 23 local children and 19 loving families and by joining other organizations to celebrate all adoptions; and

WHEREAS, this effort, along with celebrations around the country will raise awareness of the need for children in foster care to find permanent, stable, loving families and encourage other dedicated individuals to make a powerful difference in the life of a child through adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Aaron G. Reardon, Snohomish County Executive, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2009, as

**National Adoption Day
In Snohomish County**

and urge all citizens to join the effort to raise awareness for the thousands of children waiting to find forever families.

Signed this 20th day of November, 2009

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron G. Reardon', is written over a horizontal line.

Aaron G. Reardon
County Executive