



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2020

Contact: mediainquiry@acs.nyc.gov

NYC ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES RECOGNIZES NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH; REMINDS NEW YORKERS THAT THERE ARE CHILDREN & TEENS IN FOSTER CARE WHO NEED LOVING FOREVER HOMES

ACS is Committed to Making Sure That Every Child, No Matter Their Background or Age, Has a Forever Family

NEW YORK, NY – Throughout the month of November, the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) will recognize National Adoption Month by celebrating New Yorkers who have adopted and professionals who work to support the adoption process. National Adoption Month is celebrated every November across the country to remind everyone that there are children and teens in foster care who cannot return home and who need loving forever families.

"Adoption is not about finding children for families, it's about finding families for children," said **ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**. "While the number of young people in foster care remains at a historic low in New York City, all young people deserve loving homes and a forever family. Throughout National Adoption Month, ACS is proud to celebrate the adoptive families who represent the diversity of our great city, who have opened their hearts to provide safe and loving homes for our most vulnerable young people. ACS is committed to making sure that every child, no matter his or her background or age, has a forever family."

New York City's foster care system is undergoing significant transformation and the number of young people in the City's foster care is at a historic, 25-year low of less than 8,000 children. Youth in foster care are among the nation's most vulnerable young people as many have experienced abuse or neglect as well as other traumas.

ACS is aggressively implementing its Foster Care Strategic Blueprint FY19 – FY23 to improve outcomes for children and families and continue to reduce the number of youth that age out of care. Most children in foster care return home safely to their families, but when that is not possible, ACS and our foster care agency partners work to achieve permanent families for children through adoption or kinship guardianship (with relatives or close friends who become permanent caregivers). An important focus within this work is on "open adoption," in which there is some level of information sharing and/or contact between birth and adoptive families, and which we know has significant practical and psychological benefits for adopted children, birth parents and adoptive parents.

For information about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please visit:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/child-welfare/foster-adopt.page>

###