

Media Release

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Youthville to celebrate National Adoption Day

(*Wichita, Kan., Nov. 5, 2010*) – Hundreds of families who have adopted children this year through Youthville will gather on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd., to celebrate National Adoption Day. An opening ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. to acknowledge attendees. There are approximately 30 children who will finalize their adoptions at the event, changing their lives forever as they become a part of an adoptive family.

“We celebrate National Adoption Day to say thank you to those that enrich a child's life through adoption,” said Shelley Duncan, Youthville’s President and CEO. “It is also a chance to raise awareness about the hundreds of children still waiting to be adopted.”

- There are more than 300 children in Youthville’s care awaiting adoption
- There are approximately 850 children in the state of Kansas waiting on a forever family
- The average age of a child awaiting adoption is eight years old
- There are an estimated 463,000 children in foster care in the United States, and more than 123,000 children in foster care are available for adoption. Many spend more than five years waiting for permanent, loving homes.
- Between 2000 and 2009, more than 30,000 children were joined together with their forever families

Youthville is one of the largest nonprofit child welfare agencies in Kansas, specializing in foster care, adoption, psychiatric residential treatment and counseling and therapy. The agency's 600 employees are passionate about its mission of **Giving Children Back Their Childhood** to the 1,000 Kansas children who suffer from abuse, neglect, abandonment and trauma. To learn more visit www.youthville.org and visit www.youthvillestory.com to watch and read real stories.

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