



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, we have a responsibility as individuals, neighbors, community members, and citizens of the United States Virgin Islands to recognize that all children and teens need love, support, security, and a place to call home; and

WHEREAS, for children and teens who are born into families unable to meet their ongoing needs, adoption offers healthy and safe family environments, which help produce confident and successful adults; and

WHEREAS, families who choose the life-changing path of adoption make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable young people in our society; and

WHEREAS, adoptive parents and families require and deserve community and public agency respect and support; and

WHEREAS, during National Adoption Month, we celebrate all those who have invited a child or teen in need into their hearts and into their homes and express our profound appreciation for all who help make adoptions possible; and

WHEREAS, newly released data from the Administration for Children and Families indicates the number of children in foster care decreased for the third consecutive year, to an estimated 407,000 at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services helps to ensure that children and teens in foster care or other out-of-home placements are provided with safe, loving homes when their families are unable to meet their needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert J. Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby **proclaim the month of November 2022** as “**National Adoption Month**” in the United States Virgin Islands. I urge all citizens to support the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, and other government and community agencies that engage in activities that strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for children and teens to learn, grow and thrive so that all children have the benefit of happy, healthy, and safe homes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 28th day of October, A. D. 2022.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tregenza A. Roach", written over a horizontal line.

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor