

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	re: personal adoption stories (7 pages)	11/10/1995	b(6)
002. list	re: personal (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12084

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC - Adoption Ceremony, White House 11/13/95

2017-1164-S

rc2713

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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A LETTER FROM DAVE THOMAS

Dear Friend:

Adoption is a personal thing with me. I was adopted when I was six weeks old, and if I hadn't had a family to care for me, I know I wouldn't be where I am today. I was fortunate and I know it.

There are more than 100,000 children waiting to be adopted in this country on any given day. Adoption is a personal thing to them, too.

We formed the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to help raise awareness about these children and to help close the gap between the thousands of families who want to adopt and the children who so desperately need the love and support of caring families and permanent homes.

I like to think of the Foundation as a voice for children who can't always speak for themselves. We are always looking for bright, new ways to bring children and families together, as well as ways to make the process less cumbersome.

We are doing it through partnerships built throughout the country...one day...one child...one family at a time.

Sincerely,

Dave Thomas

R. David Thomas
Founder, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

"WITHOUT A
FAMILY,
I WOULD
NOT
BE WHERE I
AM TODAY"

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers Restaurants, established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 1992 because he wanted to help the thousands of children throughout the United States who are waiting to be adopted...hoping to find permanent homes and loving families.

The Foundation serves as an active voice for the more than 100,000 children in the public child welfare system who are waiting for homes and families. This is especially critical for children who have special needs:

- Children who are older;
- Siblings who want to be adopted together;
- Children from minority cultures; and
- Children who are physically or mentally challenged.

These children have a much more difficult time realizing their dreams of homes and families. But Dave believes, as do many others who work hard to make these dreams realities, that no child is "unadoptable".

The Foundation works with many national adoption organizations, individuals and public and private agencies to raise awareness about waiting children and to provide direct support for programs that meet specific Foundation objectives.

The Foundation is a public charity that is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. It is funded through charitable contributions from the general public and through several special events and projects, including:

- The Wendy's Three-Tour Challenge
- The Wendy's Ski Family Challenge
- Profits from Dave Thomas' books (*Dave's Way* and *Well Done!*)

THE FOUNDATION IN ACTION

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has developed many creative programs to raise awareness and help improve the adoption process. Among them:

- Employee adoption benefits – The Foundation promotes the creation of innovative employee benefits programs (similar to maternity benefits) designed to make it easier for working parents to adopt.
- Posters and trayliners in Wendy's restaurants – Every November, Wendy's U.S. restaurants display posters and trayliners promoting the cause of adoption.
- "The Beginner's Guide to Adoption" – This easy-to-read guide was written by adoption experts especially for prospective adoptive parents. To date, more than 500,000 copies have been distributed.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption actively seeks partnerships with national and regional organizations that work on programs consistent with the Foundation's mission. Its charitable disbursements are directed by a 13-member Board of Trustees.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

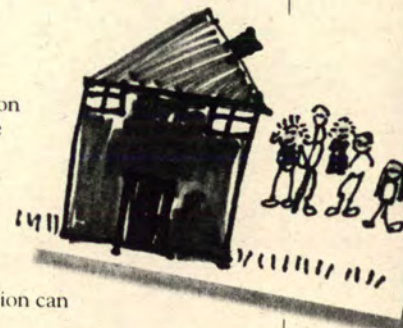
The Foundation considers funding national, regional, or state projects that:

- Educate the public about exciting and positive successes adoption can create.
- Increase the number of North American children who are adopted in a timely way.
- Create partnerships with communities, policy makers, businesses and advocates to enlist their help in making adoption a realistic family-building opportunity.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption does not fund individual adoption applications or agency operating budgets.

For application information, please call (614) 764-3009.

"NO CHILD
SHOULD BE
LOST IN A
SYSTEM
BECAUSE OF
RED TAPE"



DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION

OBJECTIVES

1. Make Adoption More Affordable

- Adoption Benefits--Anyone who has maternity benefits should add adoption benefits--both public and private employers.
- Tax Incentives--Get federal tax credits and tax deductions for those who adopt.

2. Cut the Red Tape Out of Adoption

- Each child should have one foster home.
- Each child in foster care should have a permanent home within one year.
- Each child in foster care should have one consistent case work team.

3. Education and Awareness

- Fathers and mothers should take care of their children, should not abuse their children, and should give them a loving home.
- Make Americans aware of the size of the problem in the U.S.
 - 100,000 children awaiting homes
 - 650,000 children in foster homes

4. To Get This Done--Action Plan

- We need to form public and private partnerships . . . government partnerships with assistance from the private sector.

6-2720

ADOPTION Fact Sheet

To : JUNE

From : Brenda

How does the adoption system work?

- ▶ Under state and federal laws, before exploring adoption possibilities, state child welfare agencies are required to try to reunite children with their parents when a child's safety can be assured. States are required to make a determination regarding reunification or adoption within one year.
- ▶ Between 50 and 70% of all children initially placed in foster care eventually are returned to their parents.
- ▶ When reunification is not possible, state and federal laws require efforts to find a permanent home for a child, preferably through adoption. All state laws require that, before an adoption can take place, the legal rights of the biological parents be severed through a state court proceeding.

Who are the children who need adoptive homes?

- ▶ One group consists of children, primarily infants, whose parents voluntarily relinquish them for adoption; little is known about these children or the nature of their adoptive placements because their parents generally deal with private adoption agencies or make private placements with adoptive families.
- ▶ A second group of children are those who have been placed in foster care based on court determination that they were abused or neglected, and for whom reunification efforts have been unsuccessful.
- ▶ In December 1990, there were approximately 69,000 foster children in the country for whom state agencies had determined that adoption was the appropriate goal. Approximately 20,000 of these children were legally free to be adopted (their parents' legal rights to ever regain custody had been terminated) and were waiting to be adopted.
- ▶ Forty-four percent of the children awaiting adoption were white, 43% African American, 7% Hispanic. Only four percent of these children were under age 1; 36% were between the ages of 1 and 5; 43% were 6-12 years of age; and 17% were over the age of 12. The median age was 7.4 years.
- ▶ Two out of three waiting children have special needs: medical, developmental, behavioral or psychological.

How long do children wait for adoption?

- ▶ Of the children awaiting adoption at the end of 1990, approximately 46% had already waited two years.
- ▶ It takes substantially longer to find homes for minority children. Older children and sibling groups irrespective of race also have longer waits.

- ▶ Many children are never adopted, even though their biological parents' parental rights have been terminated.

Why does it take so long and why do so many children go unadopted?

- ▶ Finding adoptive homes for older children and those with emotional or physical problems requires aggressive action by agencies, and most of the children waiting for adoption fall into these categories.
- ▶ In 1990, 43% of the children waiting for adoption were 6 to 12 years old; only 4% were infants. Two out of three children -- a doubling since 1982 -- had some special need: they were disabled, older, had siblings, or were minority.
- ▶ Lengthy processes to terminate parental rights, lack of financial resources for adoption, excessive caseloads and difficulty in recruiting foster and adoptive families contribute to the slow adoption of many of these children.
- ▶ There is some evidence that the adoption of minority children is being slowed because some foster care and adoption agencies are unwilling or reluctant to place these children with non-minority families. Some state agencies have followed explicit or implicit policies that make race or ethnicity the primary consideration in placement thus reducing the pool of available families.

What is the Clinton Administration doing to increase adoptions?

- ▶ The Administration is ensuring that states make full and effective use of the Adoption Assistance program, which provides critical economic support to families who adopt special needs children, since they may have large medical and other expenses. Under the Clinton Administration, the number of children for whom adoption subsidies are provided has increased by about 30%.
- ▶ Grants have been provided to public and private agencies to develop successful models for recruiting families, provision of post-legal adoption services, support for parent groups, and the development of training curricula.
- ▶ The Administration has conducted national and regional leadership conferences to build the capacity of public and private agencies to facilitate the adoption of minority and special needs children.
- ▶ The Administration provides support for the National Adoption Exchange, the Adoption Clearinghouse, the National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption, and the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance.
- ▶ The Administration is committed to fully enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, whose non-discrimination and recruitment provisions should increase the number of children who are adopted.
- ▶ The Clinton Administration has expressed strong concerns about "welfare reform" proposals that would jeopardize these programs and eliminate the guarantee of federal funds to help support adoptions.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH CEREMONY
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1995**

[Acknowledgements: Secretary Shalala, Members of Congress who have adopted children]

Good Afternoon. I'd like to welcome each of you to the White House for this celebration of National Adoption Month.

November is a particularly appropriate time to highlight the importance of adoption in this country. Thanksgiving and the holiday season are little more than a week away. And during this season, a time traditionally centered around the family, we recognize how much we need and depend on the unconditional love of our parents, spouses, children and other relatives.

Family is the cornerstone of our society. It is what makes our country strong and sustains our core values. National Adoption Month celebrates a special kind of American family...those created by adoption. We're here to emphasize the need to bring the richness of family life to each of America's waiting children.

This holiday season, tens of thousands of children are waiting for the love of a mother, a father and a family. Tens of thousands of children who are

growing up without mothers or fathers to teach them right and wrong, to nurture their dreams, to tell them they are special.

When we think of adoption, we often think of infants being welcomed into a family. But adoption today involves children of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances. In this room today are adoptive families and waiting children who demonstrate the range of adoptive experiences. Adoption has provided a new beginning for school-aged children; adolescents; children with physical emotional and educational disabilities; children of different races and cultures and brothers and sisters who want to remain together.

Let me give you a picture of children in America who are waiting to be adopted. Sixty percent of them are school-age children. Four out of ten are white. Four out of ten are African American. One out of 14 is Hispanic. Two out of three have special needs.

Each one of these children has the capacity to love, to bring new joy and energy into a family. Most of you, the families who are here at the White House today, already know this. You are living proof that adoption can be successful and emotionally rewarding.

But we need more of you. I recently met with Shane Salter, a young man who grew up in foster care without ever being placed in a permanent family. He described the many places he had lived and the insecurity he had experienced. He spoke of his continued longing for parents who would not only care for him, but who could be grandparents to his own children. So, you see adoption changes lives for generations.

I know that adoption as it currently is can be a frustrating and emotionally-draining process. A newspaper column I wrote on adoption this summer generated more responses than almost any other I've written. Prospective parents wrote to tell me of the immense obstacles - red-tape and expensive legal costs - that have led them to despair of ever adopting children.

I want you to know that the Clinton Administration is committed to easing and encouraging the adoption process. I recently convened a group of experts to discuss how to make the government more responsive to the needs of prospective parents and children.

In particular, the Administration is working hard to ease the adoption of minority and special needs children. The President is committed to enforcing

the Multiethnic Placement Act, which prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin of a child or prospective adoptive parents.

This Administration also supported the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act which ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fearing the loss of their jobs.

And the Administration has launched a public education campaign about adoption - a campaign in which I am honored to participate.

These are just some of the many initiatives designed to support the placement of children in loving homes.

But all of your efforts and all of the Administration's efforts to strengthen our families and children could be jeopardized by actions in Congress.

The government currently provides subsidies to families who adopt special needs children - those living with AIDS or cerebral palsy, for instance - since they may have large medical and other expenses. We hope this adoption

assistance program will be preserved as Congress debates welfare reform.

We must let Congress know that putting our economic house in order does not mean sweeping out compassion for our neediest children and families.

But government cannot improve our adoption system alone. As the President said in his Proclamation on National Adoption Month, "Citizens from all communities and organizations from the public and private sectors must join together to renew our commitment to finding permanent homes for each one of America's children."

Two of the private foundations doing good, pioneering work on the issue of adoption reform are The Annie E. Casey Foundation, which is active in five states, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Families for Kids, active in ten states.

Perhaps no person has been more effective an advocate for children waiting to be adopted than our next speaker.

The founder of Wendy's, Dave Thomas started speaking out on adoption

in 1990 when he became national spokesperson for the White House Initiative on Adoption.

An adopted child himself, Dave says he would not have become the successful father, husband and businessman he is today had he not been able to grow up in a supportive family.

His Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption seeks to make adoption more affordable, streamline the adoption process and educate the public about the potential joys of adoption. Dave believes that no child is "unadoptable" and every child deserves a home and a loving family.

Dave has been a leader in the campaign to encourage corporations to extend maternity benefits to adoptive parents. Within his own company, adoption benefits such as paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs are available to employees who have been with the company for at least one year.

Dave will be followed at the podium by The Reverend Wayne Thompson, president of One Church - One Child. One Church-One Child is one of the

many community organizations that are raising awareness about the thousands of children waiting to be adopted. Through the Reverend's work, thousands of African-American children have found loving homes and supportive church congregations.

You will also be hearing from Dwayne and Sandra Marshall, the proud parents of seven year-old Terizabeth [rhymes with Elizabeth] and two year-old Kayla. The Marshalls have experienced so much love and happiness with their two daughters that they have spent considerable time promoting adoption in their own community. In fact, they are the family featured in the posters supporting adoption that appear in Wendy's Restaurants around the world.

Deanna [DE-ANNA] Moppin will be our last speaker. She is thirteen, and lived in a foster home for seven years before moving into a group home in Topeka, Kansas. Though she no longer lives with her two foster sisters, she is still close them. Deanna is a cheerleader, an avid reader and a budding poet.

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Carol's points on the HRC speech

1. ~~add~~ mention ~~of~~ the PSA
2. Mention the Pres. Proclamation
3. Mention that HRC wrote early column on the issue.

Also, I added

Dave Thomas' remarks
to the pile.

Carol also said that there might be some activity this weekend on the welfare bill related to the adoption issues & we should check in on Mon am.

Melanne Verveer

ur

June ↑

I'll be
back at my
desk by
8:45

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 1, 1995

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH, 1995

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

For many people across the United States, adoption provides a means for building and strengthening families. It places children into loving, permanent homes where they can flourish and grow up to become happy, healthy, productive members of our national community. Adoption also enables adults to experience the unique joys of parenthood.

As many as 70,000 children in America's foster care system may need adoptive families in the next few years -- young people of all ages and backgrounds who, for whatever reason, cannot return to their original homes. Many, but not all, are children with special needs. These young people long for the same affection, security, and stability that most of us take for granted, yet too many have waited -- and will continue to wait -- for years to be adopted.

My Administration has taken important actions to encourage adoption and to support the wonderful families that choose to open their hearts and homes to waiting children. The Multiethnic Placement Act, which I signed into law in October 1994, helps to facilitate adoption for all children and families, regardless of their race or ethnic origin. We will continue to champion and improve programs that break down barriers to adoption through aggressive recruitment of families, financial aid to support placements, and technical assistance to agencies committed to special needs adoption.

As we observe National Adoption Month, we celebrate these achievements and recognize the rewards of adoption, but we must also remember that much work remains to be done. Citizens from all communities and organizations from the public and private sectors must join together to renew our commitment to finding permanent homes for each one of America's children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 1995, as National Adoption Month. I urge the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

~~paper~~ education
campaign

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
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National Adoption Month celebrates a special kind of family...those built by adoption. This event emphasizes the need to bring the richness of family life to each of America's waiting children.

This holiday season, tens of thousands of children are waiting for the love of a mother, a father and a family. Just think of it, tens of thousands of children who are growing up without mothers or fathers to teach them right and wrong, to nurture their dreams, to tell them they are special.

Our classic picture of adoption is of a family welcoming an infant into their lives. However adoption today has changed the lives of children of all ages and backgrounds. In this room today are adoptive families and waiting children who demonstrate the range of adoptive experiences. Adoption has provided a new beginning for school-aged children; adolescents; children with physical emotional and educational disabilities; children of minority background and brothers and sisters who want to remain together.

I would like to give you a picture of America's waiting children. School age children make up the majority - 60 percent - of the children who wait. Four out of ten are white. Four out of ten are African American. One out of 14 is Hispanic. Two out of three have special needs.

Each one of these children has the capacity to love, to bring new joy and energy into a family. Most of you, the families who are here at the White House today, already know this. You are living proof that adoption can be successful and emotionally rewarding.

But we need more of you. I recently met with Shane Salter, a young man who grew up in foster care, never finding a family of his own. He described the many places he'd lived and the

insecurity he'd experienced. He spoke of his continued longing for parents who would not only care for him, but who could be grandparents to his own children. So, you see adoption changes lives for generations.

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I want you to know that the Clinton Administration is committed to easing and encouraging the adoption process. I recently convened a group of experts to discuss how to make the government more responsive to the needs of prospective parents and children.

The Administration has sought to facilitate the adoption of minority and special needs children. The President is committed to enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, which prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin of a child or prospective foster and adoptive parents.

This Administration also supported the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act which ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fearing the loss of their jobs.

And the Administration has launched an ^{ad campaign} ~~ad~~ campaign to educate the public about adoption. Beginning this month, I will be appearing in a public service announcement that will air on TV stations across the country.

These are just some of the many initiatives designed to support the placement children in loving homes. But our efforts to strengthen our families and children could be jeopardized by Congress.

The government currently provides subsidies to families who adopt special needs children - those living with AIDS or cerebral palsy, for instance - since they may have large medical and other expenses. But the welfare reform bill passed by the House could significantly reduce those funds. The Administration is doing all it can to protect this program.

We must let Congress know that putting our economic house in order does not mean sweeping out compassion for our neediest children and families.

But government cannot improve our adoption system alone. As the President said in his Proclamation on National Adoption Month, "Citizens from all communities and organizations from the

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Dave will be followed at the podium by The Reverend Wayne Thompson, president of One Church - One Child. One Church-One Child is one of the many organizations that are raising awareness ~~in African-American communities about the thousands of African-American children waiting to be adopted.~~ Through the Reverend's work, thousands of children have found loving homes and supportive church congregations.

African-American
You will also be hearing from Dwayne and Sandra Marshall, the proud parents of seven year-old Terizabeth and two year-old Kayla. The Marshalls have experienced so much love and happiness with their two daughters that they have spent considerable time promoting adoption in their own community. In fact, they are the family featured in the posters supporting adoption that appear in Wendy's Restaurants around the world.

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SENT BY: WENDY'S INTERNATIONAL :11-10-95 :12:01PM : WENDY'S REAL ESTATE-

9122664550;# 2/ 2

SPEAKING POINTS FOR THE MARSHALLS

- **DECIDED TO ADOPT AFTER LEARNING THAT WE COULD NOT GIVE BIRTH TO CHILDREN.**
- **STARTED WATCHING "WEDNESDAY'S CHILD" TO SEE AVAILABLE CHILDREN.**
- **ATTENDED AN ADOPTION PARTY TO MEET AVAILABLE CHILDREN. WE WERE VERY NERVOUS, BUT THIS LITTLE GIRL, TERIZABETH CAME UP AND STARTED TALKING TO US.**
- **WE HAD BEEN MARRIED AND CHILDLESS FOR NINE YEARS BEFORE WE ADOPTED TERI IN 1993.**
- **WE ADOPTED KAYLA IN 1994 BECAUSE TERI WANTED A LITTLE SISTER. WE WILL PROBABLY ADOPT AGAIN SINCE TERI WANTS A BIG FAMILY.**
- **WE WOULD ADOPT 1000 KIDS IF WE COULD. WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY, BUT WE DO HAVE THE LOVE.**
- **WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE CHILDREN, AND GRATEFUL TO OUR SEVEN YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, TERIZABETH, FOR CHOOSING US AT THAT ADOPTION PARTY.**
- **ADOPTION HAS CHANGED OUR LIVES. NOW, DWAYNE AND I RECRUIT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN EVERYWHERE WE GO, AT WORK, AT THE STORE, EVERYWHERE. AND IT HELPS THAT PEOPLE NOW RECOGNIZE US AS THE WENDY'S FAMILY.**

**COMMENTS BY REVEREND WAYNE G. THOMPSON
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ONE CHURCH-ONE CHILD, INC.
THE WHITE HOUSE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1995**

- Thank you, Mrs. Clinton, for the opportunity to be part of this historic day.
- The importance of adoption for children throughout our country cannot be overstated. These children are fortunate enough to have found loving permanent homes in which they can be nurtured and cared for. They are led into adulthood with the support of parents, which every child is entitled to and requires.
- "Family values" are embodied in those parents who choose to bring a child into their families and experience the joys and pains of parenthood.
- The mission of national One Church-One Child is to challenge each and every African-American Church in this country to adopt one African-American child. This furthers our belief that the entire community must take responsibility for our children.
- We have placed more than 60,000 children in much-needed adoptive homes across the nation.
- Many families could not adopt children without the help of the Federal guarantee of financial assistance for every "special needs" child. This includes children with Downs syndrome, cerebral palsy, in need of respirators and on dialysis, as well as children with HIV/AIDS.
- This guarantee enables those families to care for children who would otherwise languish in the foster care system -- more than half of them African-American children. It empowers us as a community to locate loving homes in which these children can grow.
- Two out of three children waiting for adoption in this country have special needs, making this Federal guarantee more essential than ever. The 90,000 children adopted to date with this financial assistance might otherwise still be waiting.
- Again, thank you for making this a special day for children who long for and deserve a permanent home, and need the continued guarantee of federal protection.

###

TALKING POINTS FOR DEANNA MOPPIN OF TOPEKA

. I have been in foster care for most of my life.

. I am a normal teenager. I love books, horses, and spending time with my friends, and I'm on the cheerleading squad at school.

. I'm one of the lucky ones, because I haven't bounced around a lot, like some other kids. I lived in one foster home for 7 years before moving to the Villages, where I live now, and I still have a great relationship with my two foster sisters from those 7 years. They are like family to me.

. But there's no substitute for a real, permanent family. Thanksgiving is coming soon and then Christmas. This is the time of year when my friends are so busy with their own families, and I dream about being adopted.

. The hardest thing about being in foster care is
[.....?.....]

. I wish I had a mother [or father] to [.....?] with me.

. I think the reason I haven't been adopted yet is because
[.....].

. I think more people should adopt kids my age. We're toilet-trained, and can even help out around the house.

. When I get back to Topeka, I'm going to tell my friends that
[.....].

###

- Dave Thomas remarks. (3 min.)
- Rev. Wayne Thompson remarks (2 min.)
- Sandra Marshall remarks. (2 min.)
- Deanna Moppin remarks.
- THE FIRST LADY returns to the lectern to invite guests into the State Dining Room for tea.

1:25 p.m. - THE FIRST LADY and the stage participants proceed to the Blue Room while Social Aides escort guests to the State Dining Room and receiving line.

Stage participants will be escorted to the State Dining Room for the reception. Only Mrs. Clinton is in the receiving line.

NOTE: Congressional Members and their families will be escorted through the receiving line first followed by the families seated in the "Red" area on the south side of the East Room by Social Aides. Following the receiving line, Media Affairs staff will escort interviewees to the North Lawn for interviews.

NOTE: The receiving line will flow from the Red Room-Blue Room-Green Room. East Room will be closed.

2:00 p.m. Upon conclusion of the receiving line, THE FIRST LADY departs.

Guests exit the East Gate and receive proclamations as they depart.

TOUR NOTE: Tour will be offered.

Distribution:

TO: Nicole R. Rabner
 TO: Kim B. Widdess
 TO: Tracy B. LaBrecque
 TO: Robyn G. Dickey
 TO: Holly B. Nichols
 TO: Roger Sparks
 TO: Timothy Dixon
 TO: Melinda N. Bates
 TO: Alison Muscatine
 TO: Deborah R. Both

CC: Karen Finney

CC: Brenda B. Costello
CC: Peggy A. Lewis
CC: Evelyn S. Lieberman

LISSA MUSCATINE

draft/js

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH CEREMONY
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1995

[Acknowledgements: Secretary Shalala, Members of Congress who have adopted children]

Good Afternoon. I'd like to welcome each of you to the White House for this celebration of National Adoption Month.

November is a very appropriate time to highlight the importance of adoption in this country. Thanksgiving and the holiday season are little more than a week away. And during this season, a time traditionally centered around the family, we recognize how much we need and depend on the unconditional love of our parents, spouses, children and other relatives.

National Adoption Month celebrates a special kind of *emphasizing* family...those built by adoption. This event highlights the need to bring the richness of family life to each of America's waiting children.

This holiday season, more than 20,000 children are waiting for the love of a mother, a father and a family. Just think of it, twenty thousand children who are growing up without mothers or fathers to teach them right and wrong, to nurture their dreams, to tell them they are special.

Our classic picture of adoption is of a family welcoming an infant into their lives. However adoption today has changed the lives of children of all ages and backgrounds. In this room today are adoptive families and waiting children who demonstrate the range of adoptive experiences. Adoption has provided a new beginning for school-aged children; adolescents; children with physical emotional and educational disabilities; children of minority background and brothers and sisters who want to remain together.

I would like to give you a picture of America's waiting children. School age children make up the majority - 60 percent - of the children who wait. Four out of ten are white. Four out of ten are African American. One out of 14 is Hispanic. Two out of three have special needs. *f*

~~But~~ Each one of these children has the capacity to love, to bring new joy and energy into a family. Most of you, the families who are here at the White House today, already know this. You are living proof that adoption can be successful and emotionally rewarding.

But we need more of you. I recently met with Shane Salter, a young man who grew up in foster care, never finding a family of

many communities

foundations
corporations
community organizations

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF SPEECHWRITING

PHONE: (202) 456-2777
FAX: (202) 456-5709

TO: Lissa Muscatine

FROM: June Shih 6-5640

RECEIVER FAX: _____

RECEIVER PHONE: 6-2720

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): _____

COMMENTS: any last-minute comment >

WARNING

Unauthorized use of these materials is subject to federal prosecution

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
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National Adoption Month celebrates a special kind of family...those built by adoption. This event emphasizes the need to bring the richness of family life to each of America's waiting children.

This holiday season, tens of thousands of children are waiting for the love of a mother, a father and a family. Just think of it, tens of thousands of children who are growing up without mothers or fathers to teach them right and wrong, to nurture their dreams, to tell them they are special.

Our classic picture of adoption is of a family welcoming an infant into their lives. However adoption today has changed the lives of children of all ages and backgrounds. In this room today are adoptive families and waiting children who demonstrate the range of adoptive experiences. Adoption has provided a new beginning for school-aged children; adolescents; children with physical emotional and educational disabilities; children of minority background and brothers and sisters who want to remain together.

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But we need more of you. I recently met with Shane Salter, a young man who grew up in foster care, never finding a family of his own. He described the many places he'd lived and the

insecurity he'd experienced. He spoke of his continued longing for parents who would not only care for him, but who could be grandparents to his own children. So, you see adoption changes lives for generations.

I know that the adoption process as it currently is can be a frustrating and emotionally-draining. A newspaper column I wrote on adoption this summer generated the most response of any of my columns. Prospective parents wrote to tell me of the immense obstacles - red-tape and expensive legal costs - that have led them to despair of ever adopting children.

I want you to know that the Clinton Administration is committed to easing and encouraging the adoption process. I recently convened a group of experts to discuss how to make the government more responsive to the needs of prospective parents and children.

The Administration has sought to facilitate the adoption of minority and special needs children. The President is committed to enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, which prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin of a child or prospective foster and adoptive parents.

This Administration also supported the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act which ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fearing the loss of their jobs.

And the Administration has launched an ad campaign to educate the public about adoption. Beginning this month, I will be appearing in a public service announcement that will air on TV stations across the country.

These are just some of the many initiatives designed to support the placement children in loving homes. But our efforts to strengthen our families and children could be jeopardized by Congress.

The government currently provides subsidies to families who adopt special needs children - those living with AIDS or cerebral palsy, for instance - since they may have large medical and other expenses. But the welfare reform bill passed by the House could significantly reduce those funds. The Administration is doing all it can to protect this program.

We must let Congress know that putting our economic house in order does not mean sweeping out compassion for our neediest children and families.

But government cannot improve our adoption system alone. As the President said in his Proclamation on National Adoption Month, "Citizens from all communities and organizations from the

public and private sectors must join together to renew our commitment to finding permanent homes for each one of America's children."

Two of the private foundations doing good, pioneering work on the issue of adoption reform are The Annie E. Casey Foundation, which is active in five states, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Families for Kids, active in 10 states.

Perhaps no person has been more effective an advocate for children waiting to be adopted than our next speaker.

The founder of Wendy's, Dave Thomas started speaking out on adoption in 1990 when he became national spokesperson for the White House Initiative on Adoption.

An adopted child himself, Dave says he would not have become the successful father, husband and businessman he is today had he not been able to grow up in a supportive family.

His Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption seeks to make adoption more affordable, streamline the adoption process and educate the public about the potential joys of adoption. Dave believes that no child is "unadoptable" and every child deserves a home and a loving family.

Dave has been a leader in the campaign to encourage corporations to extend maternity benefits to adoptive parents. Within his own company, adoption benefits such as paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs are available to employees who have been with the company for at least one year.

Dave will be followed at the podium by The Reverend Wayne Thompson, president of One Church - One Child. One Church-One Child is one of the many organizations that are raising awareness in African-American communities about the thousands of African-American children waiting to be adopted. Through the Reverend's work, thousands of children have found loving homes and supportive church congregations.

You will also be hearing from Dwayne and Sandra Marshall, the proud parents of seven year-old Terizabeth and two year-old Kayla. The Marshalls have experienced so much love and happiness with their two daughters that they have spent considerable time promoting adoption in their own community. In fact, they are the family featured in the posters supporting adoption that appear in Wendy's Restaurants around the world.

Deanna Moppin will be our last speaker. She is thirteen, and lived in a foster home for seven years before moving into a group home in Topeka, Kansas. Though she no longer lives with them, she is still close to her two foster sisters. Deanna is a cheerleader, an avid reader and a budding poet.

###

What I'm thankful for -

gratitude being a discipline

discipline of gratitude

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E

10-Nov-1995 01:34pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Sarah Farnsworth
 Scheduling and Advance

SUBJECT: UPDATED/FINAL ADOPTION LAYOUT

SOCIAL OFFICE DRAFT 2
a/o 11/10/95; SFarnsworth

ADOPTION EVENT - FLOTUS
Monday, November 13, 1995

Approx. 160 guests
Open Press in East Room
Two guest arrival points (NW and EV)

EAST ROOM SET UP: 11 seated on stage w/steps in front and sides;
ferns in front, toast lectern; stage in front of gold curtain.
WHCA: Toast lectern, mult. Ushers provide lights.

CHILDREN CONTACT: Robyn Dickey
LIST COORDINATION: Kim Widdess
PRESS: Karen Finney
MEDIA AFFAIRS: Peggy Lewis
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS: Nicole Rabner

8:30 a.m. Backdrop set up in East Room.
 Contact: Ushers Office

12:00 p.m. Greeting participants arrive at the Northwest Gate
 and are escorted to the Blue Room.
 Gate List: Kim Widdess
 Gate Staff:
 Contact: Nicole Rabner

Blue Room Participants:

* Secretary Shalala
Carol Williams, HHS
* Dave Thomas and Lorraine, President of Wendy's

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12084

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC - Adoption Ceremony, White House 11/13/95

2017-1164-S
rc2713

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

12:30 p.m.-

12:45 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY proceeds to the Blue Room to greet approx. 25 guests. .

FORMAT:

- Guests in semi-circle
- Secretary Shalala will facilitate introductions.
- WH photo only

12:45 p.m.

Upon conclusion of greeting, non- stage participants are escorted to their seats in the East Room.

STAGE PARTICIPANTS:

- The First Lady
- Secretary Shalala
 - Dave Thomas, President of Wendy's
 - Marshall Family (Columbus, OH)
 - Rev. Wayne Thompson, One Church, One Child
- Deanna Moppin

12:50 p.m.

Once all guests are seated in the East Room, the program begins:

PROGRAM:

- The Marshall Family, Deanna Moppin, Rev. Thompson and Dave Thomas are escorted to their seats on stage by a Social Aide
- THE FIRST LADY and Sec. Shalala are announced from the Blue Room and proceed to the stage via Cross Hall.
- THE FIRST LADY proceeds to the lectern to make opening remarks and introduce Dave Thomas.

NOTE: Mrs. Clinton will introduce all the speaking participants who will speak following each other. (No introductions between each speaker.)

12:15 p.m.-

12:30 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY arrives in the Red Room for event briefing.

Contact: Melanne Verveer

12:15 p.m.

East Visitor Gate opens for guest arrival. Guests proceed to the Book Sellers to complete information cards for the receiving line.

SET UP NOTE: 2 skirted tables Staff: Natasha Martin

Guests proceed to seats in the East Room.

SEATING

- Families: Red
- BlueRoom: Blue
- D. Thomas Family (approx. 2)
- Members of Congress and families
- Corporate Reps

TO: LISSA MUSCATINE

draft/js

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November is a very appropriate time to highlight the importance of adoption in this country. Thanksgiving and the holiday season are little more than a week away. It's a time traditionally centered around the family, a time to recognize how much we need and depend on the unconditional love of our parents, spouses and children. *and other relatives*

But this holiday season, more than ~~100,000~~ ^{22,000} children in the public child welfare system are still waiting for the love of a mother, a father and a family. We are gathered here to bring attention to these children, and to recognize the difference adoption can bring to their lives and to the lives of their adoptive parents.

Just think of it, ~~one hundred thousand~~ children who are growing up without mothers or fathers to teach them right and wrong, to nurture their dreams, to tell them they are special.

Just ~~four~~ ^{five} percent of the children available for adoption are infants. *But* Most of the children waiting to be adopted are between the ages of five and twelve. They are often special needs children, those who are physically, mentally and emotionally challenged or who want to be adopted with their siblings. More than half of these children come from minority communities.

But each one of these children has the capacity to love, to bring new joy and energy into a family. Most of you, the families who are here at the White House today, already know this. You are living proof that adoption can be ~~joyous and~~ *offers rewards* successful.

But we need more of you. Thousands of childless couples wait years for newborn infants. We need to convince some of them as well as many others who had never thought of adoption before, to consider the older children in our public child welfare systems.

Many prospective parents have also told me of the immense obstacles, red-tape and expensive legal costs that have led them to despair of ever adopting children.

I want you to know that *the Clinton* this Administration is committed to

easing and encouraging the adoption process. I recently convened a group of experts to discuss how to make the government more responsive to the needs of prospective parents and children.

In addition, the Administration has provided grants to public and private agencies to develop successful models for recruiting families and providing post-legal adoption services.

The Administration has sought to facilitate the adoption of minority and special needs children.

We are committed to enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, which prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin of a child or prospective foster and adoptive parents. At the same time, the act requires the diligent recruitment of adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in need of foster and adoptive homes.

So, we are moving forward in our efforts to support the placement of children in loving homes. But even this effort to strengthen our families and children could be jeopardized by the current welfare reform debate.

The government currently provides subsidies to families who adopt special needs children - those living with AIDS or cerebral palsy, for instance - since they may have large medical and other expenses. But the welfare reform bill passed by the House could significantly reduce those funds. The Administration is doing all it can to protect this program.

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But government cannot improve our adoption system alone. Private industry is an important partner in this effort. Perhaps no person has been more outspoken an advocate for children waiting to be adopted than our next speaker.

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His Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption seeks to make adoption more affordable, streamline the adoption process and educate the public about the potential joys of adoption. ~~To~~ Dave, no child is unadoptable and every child deserves a home and a loving family.

reminds *no*

Don't forget
Dave has been a leader in the campaign to encourage corporations to extend maternity benefits to adoptive parents. Within his own company, adoption benefits such as paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs are available to employees who have been with the company for at least one year.

Members
Dave will be followed by The Reverend Wayne Thompson, president of One Church - One Child. One Church-One Child is an organization that is raising awareness in African-American communities about the thousands of African-American children waiting to be adopted. The organization challenges each African-American church in the country to adopt at least one African-American child.

You will also be hearing from Dwayne and Sandra Marshall, the proud parents of seven year-old Terizabeth and two year-old Kayla. The Marshalls have so much love and happiness with their two daughters that they have spent considerable time promoting adoption in their community. In fact, they are the family featured in the posters supporting adoption that appear in Wendy's Restaurants around the world.

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###

*Wells + Anne E. Casey
Foundation →
millions to improve
adoption*

TALKING POINTS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE ADOPTION EVENT

November marks both the beginning of the holiday season and the observance of National Adoption Month. At this time of year, families come together to celebrate the season. During this season, each of us has an opportunity to reflect on the significance of family in our own lives. Loving, caring families help children grow, thrive and develop the self-confidence and skills that they need to live in today's complex society. National Adoption Month celebrates a special kind of family...those built by adoption. This event highlights the need to bring the richness of family life to each of America's waiting children.

Every day thousands of children all over this country are dreaming of a family to call their own -- one that can give love and meaning to their lives. The children who wait are children who have not been able to remain with their birth families for a variety of reasons. More than 20,000 children are waiting to be adopted right now. Nearly 40,000 more children will need families over the next two years.

Our classic picture of adoption is of a family welcoming an infant into their lives. However adoption today has changed the lives of children of all ages and backgrounds. In this room today are adoptive families and waiting children who demonstrate the range of adoptive experiences. Adoption has provided a new beginning for school aged children; adolescents; children with physical, emotional and educational disabilities; children of minority background; and brothers and sisters who want to remain together.

I would like to give you a picture of America's waiting children. School age children make up the majority (60%) of the children who wait. Four out of ten children are white. Four out of ten children are African American. One out of 14 is Hispanic. Two out of three children have special needs conditions.

Behind these numbers are individual children whose lives are in limbo and who want to belong to a family of their own. I recently met with Shane Salter, a young man who grew up in foster care, never finding a family of his own. He described the many places he'd lived and the insecurity he'd experienced. He spoke of his continued longing for parents who would not only care for him, but who could be grandparents to his own children. Indeed, adoption changes lives for generations.

The challenge before us is to assure that every waiting child has the opportunity for a new beginning through adoption. The President and I are personally committed to this goal. The Department of Health and Human Services has made special needs

adoption a major priority. Our achievements in this area have been significant:

- o The number of children with special needs placed with the help of adoption assistance has increased by one third during this Administration as a result of efforts to assure that States make full use of the Adoption Assistance program.
- o In October 1994, the President signed the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which is designed to speed up the adoption of waiting children by eliminating barriers based on race, cultural and national origin. The Department of Health and Human Services has worked aggressively to issue guidance and work with the States to bring adoption laws and procedures nationwide into compliance.
- o This Administration supported the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act which ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fearing the loss of their jobs.
- o The Family Preservation and Support Program is being implemented in a manner that ensures that adoptive families are included among the families receiving supportive services to help those adoptions succeed.
- o The Administration is working actively to protect the Adoption Assistance and Adoption Opportunities Programs which have been repealed by the House in their action to block grant child welfare.

The efforts of the Federal government alone will not assure that each waiting child has a family. It is only through partnerships with all members of the community that we can reach this goal. We need the active involvement of businesses, advocates, private agencies, community leaders and individual citizens to make a difference for the children who wait.

Today we will hear from some of our corporate and community partners in the quest for permanent families for all children. We will also hear from an adoptive family and, most importantly, from a child who waits.

Perhaps no person has been more outspoken an advocate for children waiting to be adopted than our next speaker.

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✓ An adopted child himself, Dave says he would not have become the successful businessman he is today had he not been able to grow up in a supportive family.

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*like
growing
community
groups*

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*(Call on Dave)
Thomas*

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The Administration has sought to facilitate the adoption of minority and special needs children ~~and may The President was especially committed to this goal~~ *especially*

~~The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, which prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin of a child or prospective foster and adoptive parents. At the same time, the act requires the diligent recruitment of adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in need of foster and adoptive homes.~~ *The Admin efforts in the process*

This Administration supported the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act which ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fearing the loss of their jobs.

So, we are moving forward in our efforts to support the placement children in loving homes. But even this effort to strengthen our families and children could be jeopardized by the current welfare reform debate. *because of actions in the Congress.*

The government currently provides subsidies to families who adopt special needs children - those living with AIDS or cerebral palsy, for instance - since they may have large medical and other expenses. But the welfare reform bill passed by the House could significantly reduce those funds. The Administration is doing all it can to protect this program. *is*

We must let Congress know that putting our economic house in order does not mean sweeping out compassion for our neediest children and families.

But government cannot improve our adoption system alone. Private corporations *are* an important partner in this effort. The Annie E. Casey Foundation is working in five states to reform adoption practices. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Families for Kids is also working on similar projects in 10 states.

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Families for Kids Who Wait:

PROMISING DIRECTIONS IN
COMMUNITY-BASED
ADOPTION REFORM



A Preview of National, State, and Local Change Efforts in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Families for Kids Initiative
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Battle Creek, Michigan