

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	Families Participating in White House National Adoption Month Ceremony (3 pages)	11/23/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1997 to 2000 [binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

ry1773

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.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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]
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Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

10/29/98 – Adoption Month

Divider Title: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Cape Canaveral, Florida)

For Immediate Release

October 29, 1998

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH, 1998

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Every child deserves a safe and loving family. But each year, thousands of American children grow up without such families, lacking the stability and sense of permanency they need to thrive. More than 100,000 such children -- orphaned, abandoned, abused, or unable to remain at home for other serious reasons -- will need homes in the next few years. Although foster care provides a good supportive temporary environment for these children, adoption can provide them with the sustained love and care of permanent families and can give adults the chance to open their hearts and homes to a child they will cherish.

My Administration has worked hard both to improve the experience of children awaiting adoption and to increase their chances of adoption. Last November, I signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, which made sweeping changes in our Nation's child welfare system. This legislation underscores the importance of safety and permanency for children awaiting adoption and focuses on the urgency of finding adoptive families. In addition to achieving passage of this landmark legislation, we have made adoption easier by barring discrimination by race or ethnicity, by providing a tax credit for newly adoptive parents, and by ensuring that adoptive parents are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act.

We must strengthen such efforts if we are to meet our national goal of doubling the number of adoptions by the year 2002. In addition, while adoption in America has increased in recent years, more than 25,000 young Americans each year reach the age of 18 and leave the child welfare system without permanent homes or families. This statistic tells us that we still have much to do. We must not only secure the placement of young children in families, but also move aggressively to place in permanent families our older children, as well. I have directed the Federal Government to work with State and local governments to continue identifying and removing the barriers that prevent young people from moving from our child welfare system into adoptive families.

Working together -- policymakers, government officials, family welfare agencies, religious and community organizations, and families -- we can make a difference in the lives of thousands of children. My Administration will continue to support efforts to recruit and strengthen adoptive families and to shorten the time it takes to move children from foster care to permanent homes; to reduce the backlogs in our Nation's juvenile and family court systems; and to promote strong, supportive adoption programs that meet the needs of every child.

During National Adoption Month, let us recommit ourselves to the goal of finding a safe, permanent, and loving home for every child in need. Let us also honor the many caring families across our Nation who

have opened their arms and their hearts to a child through adoption. By making such a profound and loving commitment to our Nation's most vulnerable children, they are also making a lasting investment in America's future.

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 1998 as National Adoption Month. I urge all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent, loving homes for waiting children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

30-30-30



National Adoption Month, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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William Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 21, 1998

ADOPTION EVENT

DATE: November 24, 1998
TIME: 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm
LOCATION: East Room
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE:

To mark National Adoption Month by announcing a new directive to facilitate adoptions by creating an Internet registry.

II. BACKGROUND:

You will be joining the First Lady in hosting a ceremony in honor of 24 new adoptions in D.C. The families will be present, along with 50 leading adoption and children's advocates and the eight recipients of this year's HHS Adoption 2002 Excellence Awards - including Illinois Governor and Mrs. Jim Edgar.

You set a goal in 1996 of doubling adoptions and other permanent placements from the child welfare system by the year 2002. Adoptions increased by 10 percent in the next year, from 28,000 to 31,000. But there are still about 100,000 children in our nation's foster care system awaiting adoption.

National Internet Registry:

In order to help meet your adoption goals and to facilitate adoptions, you will announce that you are issuing a directive to HHS to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. Specifically, you will direct Secretary Shalala to work with the States and others to develop a plan within 60 days for expanding the use of the Internet to share information about children who are legally free for adoption while ensuring appropriate confidentiality safeguards. An effective national registry will help break down geographic barriers to adoption and shorten the time needed to find adoptive families for children. (Draft directive is attached.)

III. PARTICIPANTS:

YOU

The First Lady

Secretary Donna Shalala

D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton
Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams
Charday Mays, officially adopted immediately prior to event by Edward and Rochelle
Mays of Prince Georges County, Maryland. She is 12 years old.
Dave Thomas, Founder of Wendy's Corp. and the Dave Thomas Foundation on
Adoption

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

- Secretary Shalala will make brief opening remarks and introduce Dave Thomas.
- Dave Thomas will make opening remarks and introduce the First Lady.
- The First Lady will make remarks and introduce Chief Eugene Hamilton.
- Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton will make remarks and introduce Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams.
- Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams will make remarks and introduce Charday Mays, a newly adopted 12-year old.
- Charday Mays will make remarks and introduce YOU.
- YOU will make remarks, and invite guests to a reception in the State Dining Room.

V. PRESS COVERAGE:

Open Press.

VI. REMARKS:

Remarks prepared by Speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENTS:

- Record of Accomplishment on Adoption.
- Directive to the Department of Health and Human Services.

98 NOV 23 PM 5:21

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

WHAT: ADOPTION EVENT

WHEN: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1998

NOTES: APPROX 180 GUESTS/OPEN PRESS/BUSINESS ATTIRE

FROM: CAPRICIA PENA VIC MARSHALL, LAURA SCHWARTZ

Brenda - This
is the correct
version - sorry
for the mix-up

1:10 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY receives briefing at Ground Floor Elevator.
Contact: Nicole Rabner and Jen Klein

1:15 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY proceeds to the South Portico for a group picture
with the adoptive families and Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton.
Inclement weather option: North Portico

South Portico Participants

Adoption Families
See briefing material

1:20 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT arrives the Map Room for briefing.
Contact: Nicole Rabner and Jen Klein

1:30 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY proceeds to the State Dining Room to meet event
participants and other special guests.

State Dining Room Participants:*Event Participants*

Sec. Shalala
 Dave Thomas, CEO Wendy's Corporation
 Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams
 DC Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton
 Adopted child: Charday Mays and parents

Members of Congress

Sen. Levin
 Sen. Landrieu and spouse Frank Snelling
 Rep. Oberstar and spouse Jean

State Elected Officials

Governor and Mrs. Edgar, IL
 Mayor and Mrs. Marion Barry

Others

Dave Thomas' Family:
 Alyson Farber (granddaughter), Molly Postlewaite (daughter), Christopher Postlewaite (grandson), Wendy Thomas Morse (daughter), Amanda Morse (granddaughter), Kathy Thomas (daughter-in-law), Sean Thomas (grandson), Stephanie Thomas (granddaughter).
 Jann Heffner, Executive Director of the Dave Thomas Foundation and daughter Casey.

1:40 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT arrives to the Blue Room to greet event participants.
See above event participants.

1:45 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY accompanied by the event participants are announced to honors from the Blue Room into the East Room and take their place on stage.

PROGRAM

Secretary Shalala makes remarks and introduces Dave Thomas.

Dave Thomas makes remarks and introduces **THE FIRST LADY**.

THE FIRST LADY makes remarks and introduces DC Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton.

DC Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton makes remarks and introduces Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams.

Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams makes remarks and introduces Charday Mays.

Charday Mays makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks and invites guests to a reception in the State Dining Room.

2:40 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT and **THE FIRST LADY** depart.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON ADOPTION

- ✓ **Achieving Landmark Legislative Reform.** On November 19, 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, reforming our nation's child welfare system and making it clear that the health and safety of children must be the paramount concerns of state child welfare services. This landmark legislation was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton Administration's *Adoption 2002* report, which the President requested by executive memorandum on December 14, 1996, to meet his goals of doubling adoptions and permanent placements by the year 2002 and moving children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes. The Act tightened time frames for making permanent placement decisions for children, and ensured health insurance coverage for all special needs children in subsidized adoptions. Also, it created new financial incentives for States to increase adoptions, and continued funding for services to keep families together when it is appropriate and safe.
- ✓ **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with Federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, President Clinton ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit.
- ✓ **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** To test innovative strategies to improve State child welfare systems, the Clinton Administration has granted waivers to 18 States, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided States with enhanced technical support and helped improve court operations. The President secured \$10 million in FY 1999 in new funds to support State efforts to implement the new adoption law, and has, through the Adoption Opportunities program, supported State and local innovative demonstration projects to promote adoption, provide post-adoptive services, and build new public-private partnerships. To prevent children from entering foster care in the first place, in 1993 the Clinton Administration enacted and secured federal funding for the Family Preservation and Support Program to help States, local governments, and service providers develop effective programs to serve children and families at risk.
- ✓ **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994.
- ✓ **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, enabling parents to take time off to

adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform legislation signed by the President maintained the guarantee of child protection and adoption, and did not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, and foster care and adoption services.

Background on DC Adoption Day and DC Child Welfare Services

At this event, the White House will for the first time host D.C. Adoption Day, an annual event in which the D.C. Superior Court finalizes a number of adoptions to mark National Adoption Month. As you know, the DC Superior Court invited you to participate in this ceremony, and you offered to host it at the White House. This is the 12th annual event, with a record 24 families participating in the ceremony (descriptions of families attached). This year's theme selected by the Court is "Adoption: Creating Loving Families for the Twenty-First Century." DC Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton will preside over this portion of the White House ceremony, and will introduce each of the participating families.

As you know, the District's child welfare system has had many problems over the years, culminating in 1991 in a major lawsuit in which the District was found in violation of its own laws and that of the Federal and constitutional law. Reforms did not move quickly, and in 1995 the Judge found the District in contempt and called for the appointment of a general receiver. The receiver's 1995-1997 tenure was marked by extreme controversy; the Judge accepted his resignation and ordered a national search for a new receiver. Since the appointment last fall of Ernestine Jones as the new general receiver, the situation has improved for the most part, with task forces assigned to examine and address major challenges. Today, there is an Adoption 2002 partnership agreement between the DC Child and Family Services Agency and HHS to double, over a five year period, the number of children adopted or permanently placed in DC each year.

As of March 31, 1998, there were 3,081 children in foster care in DC. Of that number, 975 have either a case plan that specifies adoption or have had parental rights terminated, or both. Thirty-one percent are under the age of five; 77 percent are under the age of 10, and 95 percent are under the age of 13. The vast majority (97.7 percent) are black.

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUBJECT: Using the Internet to Increase Adoptions

Technology will be an ever more important part of achieving our national goals as we approach the new millennium. New technological tools mean new opportunities for progress -- helping us to strengthen the global economy, bolster public education, and improve the health of American families. Technology can also assist our continuing efforts to meet our national goal of doubling, by the year 2002, adoptions and other permanent placements from our Nation's foster care system.

As we celebrate National Adoption Month, it is fitting that we reflect on the important steps we have taken to strengthen our child welfare system and, specifically, to improve the process of adoption. Through the Family and Medical Leave Act and tax credits, we have made it easier for families to adopt children. We have eliminated discrimination and delay based on race and ethnicity. And, last year, I was proud to sign into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act, tightening the time frame for decision-making and affirming that the health and safety of children in foster care must always come first.

We are making progress but there is more work to be done. Because geographic and other barriers to adoption still exist, we must do a better job of informing America's families about the many children that wait in foster care for permanent, adoptive homes. To give those children the future they deserve, to give our families the opportunity to provide them with happy, healthy homes, we must infuse the public child welfare system with the power of technology.

Therefore, I am directing you to work with the States, courts, private agencies, and others to develop a plan for expanding appropriate use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from the public child

DRAFT

welfare system. There are approximately 100,000 children in our country waiting in foster care for permanent adoptive homes. Sharing information through a national Internet registry about children legally available for adoption could shorten the time needed to find adoptive families for such children. Because of the way the child welfare system is structured, close consultation with the States will be necessary to take full advantage of the Internet's potential to promote adoptions while also ensuring appropriate confidentiality safeguards.

You should report to me within 60 days with a plan to carry out this consultation, identify important issues and strategies to address them, and build on promising existing efforts to create an effective, national registry.

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Dave Thomas

Founder and Senior Chairman of the Board

Dave Thomas was born on July 2, 1932, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He never knew his birth parents, but a couple from Kalamazoo, Mich., Rex and Auleva Thomas adopted him when he was six weeks old. Auleva died when Dave was five and his early years included numerous moves from state to state as his adoptive father sought work.

These frequent moves proved challenging for Dave, who found himself without roots or a sense of belonging. Always the new kid on the block, Dave sought refuge in work. One of the things he enjoyed most during his childhood was going to restaurants to eat. There he'd see families eating together and enjoying the friendly atmosphere. He decided at an early age that he was going to have his own restaurant with great tasting food where families would visit again and again.

The Early Years

Dave started working at age 12, delivering groceries in Knoxville, but was fired after a misunderstanding with his boss about his vacation. His second job was as a soda jerk at Walgreen's, but he was fired again when his boss found out Dave wasn't 16.

While applying for his next job, 12-year-old Dave landed a job at the counter at the Regas Restaurant in Knoxville. He worked hard during his 12-hour shifts, afraid he'd lose yet another job. The Regas brothers treated Dave like one of the family, providing him with encouragement and a caring mentorship that had a positive and lasting effect on him.

By the time Dave was 15, he had moved again and was working full-time at the Hobby House Restaurant in Ft. Wayne. As his father and step family prepared for another move, Dave decided to stay in town and took a room at the local YMCA. Shortly thereafter, he made the biggest mistake in his life: he dropped out of high school to work full-time. He thought he could learn more about the restaurant business with a hands-on education than he could learn in school.

Page 2

When he was 18, Dave joined the Army, eventually becoming one of the youngest soldiers to manage an enlisted men's club. After the service he returned to the Hobby House, where he met his future wife, Lorraine, a waitress, whom he married in 1954.

Dave Meets The Colonel

In 1956, Dave and his boss Phil Clauss opened a barbecue restaurant called The Ranch House. There, Dave met the man who became one of the greatest influences in his life -- Colonel Harland Sanders, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Clauss bought a KFC franchise from the Colonel and Dave was in the chicken business.

In 1962, Clauss offered Dave a chance to turn around four failing KFC carryouts Clauss owned in Columbus, Ohio. If Dave could turn the carryouts around and pay off a big debt, Clauss would give him 45 percent of the business.

Although daunting, this was the kind of challenge Dave liked. He realized the restaurants were failing because they lacked focus. He cut the 100-item menu to a handful of choices, focusing on chicken and side items. To increase public awareness, Dave added the famous bucket of chicken logo, and implemented some effective marketing campaigns that included trading buckets of chicken for radio air time. The restaurants began to prosper and he added four more restaurants. In 1968, his boss sold the restaurants back to KFC for \$1.5 million, making Dave a millionaire at age 35. He then joined the parent company as regional operations director.

The Call of Hamburgers

While working for KFC, Thomas remained drawn to hamburgers. Although experts said America didn't need another hamburger restaurant, Dave opened the first Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers restaurant on November 15, 1969, in Columbus. He named the restaurant after his eight-year-old daughter Melinda Lou, nicknamed "Wendy" by her older brother and sisters.

The first Wendy's menu included fresh, made-to-order hamburgers, chili, french fries, soft drinks and a Frosty Dairy Dessert. The decor was homey, with bentwood chairs and tiffany-style lamps. Thomas planned to open several restaurants around Columbus, giving his children a place to work during the summers.

Page 3

Competitors scoffed at this young entrepreneur, but Wendy's grew and prospered. In 1973, Dave began franchising the Wendy's concept, pioneering the idea of selling franchises for entire cities and parts of states, rather than single units.

Wendy's grew rapidly, with more than 1,000 restaurants opening in its first 100 months. That rapid growth continues: Wendy's and its franchisees now operate more than 4,800 restaurants in the U.S. and 34 countries.

The TV Spokesman

In early 1989, Dave agreed to appear in "a few" Wendy's commercials as the company spokesman. In April, the Dave Thomas campaign began, and the homey style of the advertising has made Dave one of the nation's most recognizable spokesmen.

In September, 1996, the Dave Thomas campaign reached a special milestone when Dave filmed his landmark 500th commercial, making this the longest running advertising campaign featuring a company founder as spokesperson.

While advertising a variety of Wendy's products, Dave has appeared with several famous celebrities in his commercials, including soap opera star Susan Lucci, blues great B.B. King and Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi. Dave has emerged from Wendy's advertising campaign as an American folk hero. His honesty and old fashioned values shine through and have solidified his popularity.

Dave as a Canadian Mountie?

In 1995, Wendy's merged with Tim Hortons, the second largest quick-service restaurant chain in Canada, which features coffee and fresh baked goods. Tim Hortons will be operated as a Wendy's subsidiary. This partnership enabled Dave to realize another dream: this merger enhances Wendy's growth and strength as a worldwide company while encouraging the development opportunities of both chains. Dave believes the merger is a marriage of two strong companies that were founded on the concept of quality and service.

The Importance of Giving Back

Dave strongly believes in giving back to the communities that support you. He is a long-time supporter of a variety of charities, such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis; Children's Hospital in Columbus; Children's Home Society of Florida; and The Ohio State University Cancer Research Institute.

Page 4

A cause closest to his heart is adoption. In 1990, he became a national spokesman for the White House Initiative on adoption, called "Adoption Works ... For Everyone." Since then, Dave has been a national adoption advocate, working to raise awareness for the tens of thousands of children who need permanent homes and loving families.

In 1992, Dave established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, a not-for-profit foundation focused on raising public awareness about adoption, helping reduce the red tape from the process, and making adoption more affordable.

Dave donates all of his profits from sales of his autobiography *Dave's Way*, published in 1991, and his second book, *Well Done!*, published in 1994, to the foundation.

Personal Accomplishments

While dropping out of school was Dave's biggest mistake, it led to one of his greatest accomplishments. In 1993, 45 years after leaving school, Dave earned his GED certificate and received his high school diploma from Coconut Creek High School in Ft. Lauderdale. He was voted Most Likely to Succeed by the graduating class, and attended the prom with his wife Lorraine, where they were named Prom King and Queen.

From his early days as a soda jerk and short order cook, to becoming an entrepreneur and TV spokesman, Dave has been recognized for his work in the restaurant industry and for children. He's a Horatio Alger Award recipient, holds honorary degrees from Duke, Baylor and Clemson Universities, among many others, and is a 33° degree Mason.

Dave has received every major restaurant industry honor and countless Entrepreneur and Man of the Year awards. The adoption community has honored him with a variety of awards, and Dave has attended special receptions at the White House in recognition for his work for adoption. He has also testified before Congress in support of tax credits for adoptive parents.

On the rare occasions when he's not in the studio making commercials or traveling the country for interviews or speeches, you might find Dave on the golf course, perfecting his game. A golf lover, Dave has played in dozens of charity golf tournaments, including Wendy's Three-Tour Challenge benefiting adoption.

Dave's commitment to Wendy's and to America's children is what motivates him to continue working when others might have retired. He's accomplished a great deal in his life, but he considers his family -- his loving wife of more than 40 years, five children and 14 grandchildren his greatest accomplishment.

9/11/96

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

HONORABLE EUGENE N. HAMILTON

Chief Judge Hamilton was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and attended public schools in Memphis from kindergarten through senior high school, graduating from Hyde Park Elementary School in 1947 and Manassas High School in 1951. Chief Judge Hamilton attended LeMoyne Owen College from 1951-1952, and then received both his B.A. and his LL.B. degrees from the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois. From 1959-1961, Chief Judge Hamilton served on active duty as a Judge Advocate General Officer in the United States Army. Immediately after being released from active duty in April of 1961, Chief Judge Hamilton joined the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice where he served as a trial attorney until his appointment to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1970.

Chief Judge Hamilton has been in active service on the Superior Court since his appointment and he has served in all of the various Divisions of the Court. From 1987 until January 1992, Chief Judge Hamilton served as Chairperson of the Judicial Training Committee of the Superior Court. Chief Judge Hamilton has served as the Chairperson of the Continuing Legal Education Advisory Board, Georgetown University Law Center and is presently on the faculty at the Harvard Law School in the Trial Advocacy Workshop. Chief Judge Hamilton is a former member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Trial Judges of the Judicial

Administration Division of the American Bar Association. Chief Judge Hamilton is active in the American, Washington, and National Bar Associations.

After serving as the Deputy Presiding Judge of the Probate and Tax Divisions of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, he was, on January 1, 1992, appointed Presiding Judge of those Divisions. Chief Judge Hamilton has continuously served on the Joint Committee for Judicial Administration of the District of Columbia Courts since being elected thereto in November 1991. On October 29, 1993, Chief Judge Hamilton was designated as Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, becoming the second African American to hold that office. Chief Judge Hamilton was redesignated for a second term effective November 1, 1997.

Chief Judge Hamilton is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Luke Charles Moore Academy, formerly D.C. Street Academy, the only District of Columbia Public School that has an independent Board of Directors. Chief Judge Hamilton is one of the founders of The Elementary Baseball Tutoring and Mentoring Program of Garrison Elementary School as well as the National Reclaim Our Youth Mentoring Program.

Chief Judge Hamilton is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the District of Columbia School of Law. He is the recipient of many awards including the *Washington Bar Association's Ollie May Cooper Award*, the *Washington Urban League Inc.'s Images of Fatherhood Loving Lifting Hands Award*,

the State of Maryland Governor's Citation for Outstanding Services to the Children of the State, the National Rainbow Coalition Citizenship Education Fund's Reclaim Our Youth Award For Outstanding Service to the Youth of this Nation, and the Luke Charles Moore Award and the National Bar Association's Wiley A. Branton Award.

Chief Judge Hamilton is married to the former Virginia David and they have nine children: Alexandra Jane Evanzz, John Steven, James Poole, Eric Eugene, David Nolan, Rachael Allyson, Jeremiah Quincy, Michael Kyle, Marcus Keith, and five grandchildren: Aaron, Kanaan, Arianna, Adrian and Yorlando.

Chief Judge Hamilton together with his wife, Virginia, has served for over twenty (20) years as foster parents for forty (40) children who were in the child welfare systems of both the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland. Michael and Marcus who are twins were foster children in which the Chief Judge and Mrs. Hamilton adopted 1986. One of the Hamilton's daughters has herself seen fit based on life experiences , to adopt a child.

Charday Mays

Charday Mays [Shar day], age 12, is one of the children whose adoption is being finalized today; she will introduce the President at today's event. Charday is a 6th grader at Waldon Woods Elementary School in Prince Georges County. Charday has been in the foster care system since she was about three years old. Her brother Steven, age 11, and Charday are being adopted by Edward and Rochelle Mays. The Mays have 2 other children.

Williams '98 Transition

1730 K Street, N.W., Suite 202
Washington, D.C. 20005

Anthony A. Williams

Anthony A. Williams served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the District of Columbia from October 1995 to June 1998. Appointed by Mayor Marion Barry to lead the District to financial recovery, Mr. Williams restored fiscal accountability for District agencies, balanced the city's budget, which put the District on a track for the return to self government two years earlier than projected, and delivered a surplus of \$185 million in fiscal year 1997.

Having stabilized the city's financial management, Mr. Williams resigned as CFO in June to run for mayor. Mr. Williams brought extensive experience in management and strategic planning to his role as the District's independent CFO. Under his leadership, the District achieved significant improvements in cash management, budget execution and revenue collections.

Prior to joining the District government, Mr. Williams was the first Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, appointed by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Mr. Williams also served as the Deputy State Comptroller of Connecticut, where he was responsible for the management of 250 separate funds, the state's budget and accounting services.

Mr. Williams was the Executive Director of the Community Development Agency in St. Louis, Assistant Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and Adjunct Professor at Columbia University. He was elected to the New Haven Board of Aldermen, where he served as President Pro-Tempore.

Born in Los Angeles, Mr. Williams is the adopted son of Virginia and the late Lewis Williams and is one of eight children. Mr. Williams served in the U.S. Air Force. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Yale College, where he graduated magna cum laude, a juris doctorate from Harvard Law and a master's degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Mr. Williams is a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church, as well as several social service organizations, including 100 Black Men and the Washington Urban League.

He and his wife, Diane, live in Ward 2. They have one daughter, Asantewa Foster.

President's List

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH CEREMONY - Tuesday NOV 24 1998 - 1:30 PM White House - Business - East Visitors Entrance

Page 1

THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:15 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Terri T. Alexander
Guest: Ms. Sarah Alexander

Ms. MaryLee Allen
Dir.Child Welfare & Ment.Healt, Children`s Defense Fund
Washington, DC

Hon. Max Baer
Judge, Allegheny County Juvenile Court, Family Division
Pittsburgh, PA

Mr. Steven Bahls
Dean, Capital University Law School

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Barnes
Guests: Ms. Deshawn Barnes, Mr. Tyshawn Barnes

Ms. Margie L. Barnes
Guest: Ms. LaTonya Barnes

Hon. and Mrs. Marion Barry
Mayor, District of Columbia
Washington, DC

Hon. Judith Bartnoff

Hon. Ronna Lee Beck
Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC
Guest: Ms. Sharon Belinda Grabner

Ms. Carol Statuto Bevan
Staff, House Ways & Means Committee
Washington, DC

Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby

Ms. Mary Bourdette
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, US Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC

Honorable Harold Brazil
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC

Ms. Noel Brennan
Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Mr. Emil Brolick
Board Member, Dave Thomas Foundation

Hon. Arthur Burnett

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:15 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Mr. Forrest Burson
Director, Georgia Department of Human Resources

Ms. Vanessa Campbell
Guests: Ms. LaTonya Campbell, Ms. Sparkle E. Campbell

Ms. Ellen Wiggins Carey
Adoption Specialist, Children's Bureau
Washington, DC

Ms. Carla Carpenter
Senior Legislative Council, Office of Senator Mike DeWine
Washington, DC

Mr. David A. Catania
Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC

Mr. Leroy Chambers and Ms. Vanessa J. Chambers
Guest: Ms. Angel Lakisha Chambers

Honorable Kevin P. Chavous
Washington, DC

Ms. Barbara Clark
Staff, Department of Health & Human Services

Ms. Marianne Clarke
National Adoption Center
Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Thomas B. Clemens
Video Production Supervisor, Wendy's International, Inc.

Ms. Frances A. Cowan
Guests: Ms. Shirlene Cowan, Mr. Gregory Cowan

Ms. Linda Susan Cox
Holt International Children's Services
Eugene, OR

Hon. Lynn G. Cutler
Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Washington, DC

Mr. Steven Dahls
Dean, Capital Law School

Hon. Pamela Diaz
Hearing Commissioner, D.C. Superior Court
Washington, DC

Mr. James Dukes and Ms. Alicia D. Smith
Guest: Ms. Constania Dukes

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:15 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Jamila J. Larson (Substitute for: Marian Edelman)

Hon. (Gov.) and Mrs. James R. Edgar

Governor of Illinois (R), State of Illinois
Springfield, IL

Guest: Mr. Eric Robinson

Ms. Brenda Eheart

Executive Director, Hope for the Children, Inc.
Rantoul, IL

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Elmore

Guests: Mr. Evander Lee Elmore, Ms. Christina Elmore

Ms. Stehanie K. Eshelman

Guest: Mr. Wang Eshelman

Mr. Clarence Evans and Ms. Yvette Roberta Evans

Assistant Social Worker, Department of Health & Human Services, Kinship Care
Washington, DC

Guest: Ms. Nakia Evans

Ms. Maureen McCauley Evans

Executive Director, Joint Council on International Children's Services
Cheverly, MD

Ms. Traci Failla

Accountant Supervisor, Ketchum Public Relations

Ms. Laura Feig

Staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Ms. Sally Flanzer

Staff, Department of Health & Human Services

Ms. Susan Alexander Freivalds

Adoptive Families of America
Minneapolis, MN

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garcia

Guest: Mr. Everett Garcia

Hon. Olivia A. Golden

Assistant Secretary for Children & Families, Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC

Ms. Michelle Grossman

Associate Account Executive, Ketchum Public Relations

Hon. Eugene Hamilton

Chief Justice, Superior Court of DC
Washington, DC

Mrs. Virginia Hamilton

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:15 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Mr. Mark Hardin

Director of Child Welfare, Center on Children and Law, American Bar Association
Washington, DC

Ms. Barbara Harrison

Anchor, NBC 4
Washington, DC

Ms. Jann K. Heffner

Executive Director, The Dave Thomas Foundation
Dublin, OH

Mr. William J. Henderson

Postmaster General, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Postal Service
Washington, DC

Ms. Gloria Hochman

The National Adoption Center

Mrs. Maureen Hogan

Executive Director, Adopt America
Washington, DC

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Honig

Guest: Ms. Saige Honig

Hon. Anita Isicson

Ms. Robin Jackson and Mr. Bernard Jackson

Guest: Ms. Naomi Jackson

Ms. Sondra Jackson

Child and Family Services Agency
Washington, DC

Hon. Charlene Drew Jarvis

Chairman Pro Tempore, Washington, DC City Council
Washington, DC

Mr. Randy Jenkins

Ms. Carolyn Johnson

National Adoption Center
Philadelphia, PA

Ms. Ernestine F. Jones

General Receiver, Child and Family Services
Washington, DC

Ms. Susan Kidd

Ch. 4 WRC
Washington, DC

Hon. Rufus King

Judge, D.C. Courthouse

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:15 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Michelle Kramer

Senior Account Executive, Ketchum Public Relations

Mr. Joseph Kroll

Executive Director, North American Council on Adoptable Children
St. Paul, MN

Ms. Carolyn B. Lamm

White & Case

Ms. Madelyn Landrieu

American Trial Lawyers Association
Miami, FL

Mr. Howard Hill (Substitute for: Harriet Lange)

Mr. David Liederman

Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

Mr. Ernesto Loperena

NY Council on Adoptable Children
New York, NY

Mr. Dennis L. Lynch

President, Dave Thomas Foundation

Mr. Kent Markus

Director, Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law

Ms. Kristin Marshall

Program Coordinator, Dave Thomas Foundation

Honorable Hilda Howland Mason

D.C. City Council
Washington, DC

Mr. Jess McDonald

Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Springfield, IL

Ms. Maureen McGauley-Evans

Joint Council on International Children's Services
Cheverly, MD

Ms. Kathleen McHugh

Mr. and Mrs. Willis E. Miller

Guest: Ms. Pamela R. Miller

Hon. and Mrs. George Mitchell

Ms. Zinora Mitchell-Rankin

Washington, DC

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:15 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Elba Montalvo
Executive Director, Committee for Hispanic Children & Families
New York, NY

Ms. Evelyn K. Moore
President, National Black Child Development Institute
Washington, DC

Ms. Kathleen A. Munger
Manager, Public Relations, Wendy's International, Inc.

Mr. Wendell Myers and Ms. Janet Meyers
Guest: Ms. Stephanie Myers

Ms. Toni Oliver
Child and Family Services Agency
Washington, DC

Ms. Elizabeth Oppenheim
American Public Human Services Association

Ms. Caroline Brolick (Substitute for: Casey Ostercamp)

Hon. Evelyn Queen
Judge, DC Superior Court Judges

Mrs. Jestina L. Richarson
Executive Director, United Homes for Children
Boston, MA

Mr. Edward Hayes Ricks

Mr. and Mrs. David Robinson
Guest: Mr. Sean M. Robinson

Ms. Ann Rosewater
Counselor to the Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services,
Washington, DC

Ms. Martha Ross
Executive Director, Three Rivers Adoption Council
Pittsburgh, PA

Mrs. Rochelle Ross-Mays and Mr. Edward Mays
Guests: Ms. Chardai Mays, Mr. Stephen Mays

Ms. Barbara J. Ruffin
Guests: Ms. Victoria Ruffin, Ms. Vivian Ruffin

Mr. David Sahr and Mrs. Lori Milstein
Guest: Mr. Joshua Young Joon Sahr

Judge Lee Satterfield

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:15 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Jan Shafer

Mr. Frank Smith
Councilmember, Ward 1
Washington, DC

Hon. Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
Justice, Ohio Supreme Court
OH

Ms. Julie Ann Sullivan
Assistant Program Director, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

Ms. Mary Eileen Sullivan
The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse
Fairfax, VA

Ms. Margaret Tarter Summers

Mr. Gary Talbott
Wendy's International

Ms. Kim A. Tenhor
Social Worker, DC Department of Human Services

Honorable Harry Thomas
Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC

Mr. and Mrs. Rex David Thomas
Founder, The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Guests: Ms. Kathleen Ann Thomas, Ms. Molly Jo Thomas-Postlewaite, Ms. Melinda Thomas Morse, Mr. Sean David Thomas, Ms. Alyson Stephan Farber, Ms. Stephanie Rose Thomas, Mr. Charles Christopher Postlewaite, Ms. Amanda Allyn Morse
Ms. Sherry Thomas
Guest: Mr. Malik Thomas

Mr. James Tolbert
Manager of Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service
Washington, DC

Mr. Darrick Tyson and Ms. Monique Tyson
Guests: Ms. LaShawn Tyson, Ms. Teonna Tyson

Dr. Dixie Van de Flier Davis
The Adoption Exchange
Denver, CO

Hon. Annice R. McBryde Wagner
Chief Judge, DC District Court of Appeals
Washington, DC

Mr. William Waldman
Executive Director, American Public Human Services Association
Washington, DC

For Official Government Use Only

REPORT DATE: November 23, 1998
REPORT TIME: 5:16 PM

Accepts and No Responses

Mr. Keith P. Warzyniak and Ms. Nancy Warzyniak
Guest: Ms. Kenika Warzyniak

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Washington
Guest: Ms. Tasha Washington

Ms. Ellen M. Wells
Guest: Ms. Jessica Wells

Ms. Carol Williams
Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau
Washington, DC

Mr. Jeffrey Woodburn and Ms. Elizabeth Lisk Woodburn
Concord, NH

Honorable Jim Wright and Ms. Betty Wright
Fort Worth, TX

Honorable Nancy Wyman
State Representative, State of Connecticut
Hartford, CT

Hon. Joan Zeldon
Judge, Superior Court of D.C.
Washington, DC

Ms. Rhoda Zione
Guest: Mr. Dontae Zione

Ms. Joan Levy Zlotnik
Director of Special Projects, Council on Social Work Education
Alexandria, VA

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**11/5/98 Video-Council
On Adoptable
Children**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1998

FINAL

WASHINGTON, DC

SCHEDULER: EVAN RYAN
202/456-6751 PHONE
202/456-5340 FAX
202/483-0383 HOME
WHCA PAGER #4223

PREV RON The White House

10:00 am- BRIEFING
10:05 am Elevator Hallway
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Ellen Lovell
Capricia Marshall

CONTACT: Ellen Lovell 202/395-7200

10:05 am- MEET & GREET
10:15 am Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
National Council on the Arts Members
National Council on the Humanities Members
President's Committee on the Arts Members
(see briefing book)

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1998

PAGE 2

10:15 am- BRIEFING
10:25 am Map Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The President
The First Lady
Ellen Lovell
Capricia Marshall

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

10:25 am- MEET & GREET
10:40 am State Dining Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
National Medal of the Arts Recipients and
immediate family
National Medal of the Humanities Recipients and
immediate family

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

10:45 am- ARTS AND HUMANITIES CEREMONY
12:00 pm Tent
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-The President and the First Lady are announced to
Honors to the stage.

-The First Lady makes welcoming remarks and
introduces Jacques d'Amboise dancers from the
National Dance Institute.

-Jacques d'Amboise's dancers perform.

-The First Lady returns to the podium, makes
remarks and introduces the President.

-The President makes remarks about each awardee
and presents their medals individually.
[Recipient stands between POTUS and FLOTUS. After

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1998

PAGE 3

each presentation there is a photo.]

- The President makes remarks about each recipient and presents their medals individually.
- The President makes concluding remarks.
- The President and First Lady depart to a processional.

PARTICIPANTS: 1000 guests

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

12:00 pm-
12:05 pm

PHOTO
Palm Court
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Jacques D'Amboise dancers

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

12:05 pm-
12:15 pm

NATIONAL AWARD FOR MUSEUM SERVICE MEET & GREET
Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: 20 guests (see briefing book)

CONTACT: Katy Button 202/456-7264

12:15 pm-
12:20 pm

DROP-BY with the Burns and Baber families
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

CONTACT: Milli Alston 202/456-2957

12:20 pm-
12:25 pm

DROP-BY with Tom Thrash
Diplomatic Reception Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

CONTACT: Tom Thrash 501/374-1058

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1998

PAGE 4

12:25 pm- DROP-BY with Jeffrey Hayward
12:30 pm Vermeil Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

CONTACT: Ann McCoy 202/456-6635

12:30 pm- PRIVATE MEETING
12:50 pm Map Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:

The First Lady
Felix Rohatyn, U.S. Ambassador to France

CONTACT: Chris Mondini 011-33-1-4312-2700

12:55 pm- DOWN TIME
5:40 pm

5:45 pm- VIDEOS
6:30 pm Roosevelt Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

TAPING:

- Creative Coalition Tribute to Mary Steenburgen, Ted Danson, and John Sykes
- New York Council on Adoptable Children Award Presentation
- USAID Eliminate Vitamin A Deficiency video
- National Association for Public Interest Law Advocate of the Year Award
- New Israel Fund 20th Anniv. Guardian of Democracy Dinner - Honoring: Peter and Jonah Edelman and Leah Rabin and her granddaughter Noa Ben Artzi
- Spina Bifida PSA
- St. Louis-Riga Partnership Celebration
- 30th Anniversary of Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center
- "Musical Moments for Multiple Sclerosis Gala"
- Coming Up Taller
- Arts Literacy for a Changing America

CONTACT: Brenda Anders 202/456-5654

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1998

PAGE 5

7:45 pm-
TBD

MEDALS OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES DINNER

State Dining Room/Tent

Attire: Black tie

EXPANDED POOL PRESS/POOL PRESS

FORMAT:

-The President and First Lady are announced to
"Honors" and proceed to the Cross Hall.

-The President and First Lady pause for an
official photograph in the Cross Hall.

EXPANDED POOL PRESS

-The President and First Lady receive the guests.

EXPANDED POOL PRESS

-The President and First Lady proceed to the Blue
Room for a brief hold.

-The President and First Lady are announced into
the East Room, and the President proceeds to the
Eagle lectern.

-The President makes a toast.

-Dinner is served.

-Upon conclusion of dinner, the President and
First Lady proceed to the Blue Room or Residence
for a brief hold.

-The President and First Lady are announced into
the tent.

9:45 pm

-The performance begins. **POOL PRESS**

-Upon conclusion of the performance, the
President thanks the performers and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 190 guests expected.

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

RON

The White House

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1998

PAGE 6

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC: Mostly sunny and cool. Low
34. High 50.

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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

11/24/98: Meme for HHS

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1998
FINAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SCHEDULER: MOLLY BUFORD
202/456-5315 PHONE
202/456-5340 FAX
202/244-2125 HOME
WHCA PAGER #4452

PREV RON The White House

11:30 am- SCHEDULING MEETING
1:00 pm Residence
CLOSED PRESS/NO WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Pamela Cicetti
Kelly Craighead
Patti Solis Doyle
Missy Kincaid
Ellen Lovell
Christy Macy
Capricia Marshall
Julie Mason
Shirley Sigawa
Melanne Verveer
Whitney Williams

1:10 pm- BRIEFING
1:15 pm Ground Floor Elevator
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Jen Klein
Nicole Rabner
Laura Schwartz

1:15 pm- GROUP PHOTO w/Adoptive Families
1:30 pm South Portico
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 50 guests to attend. Please
see briefing book for complete list.

1:35 pm- MEET AND GREET

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1998
PAGE 2

1:45 pm State Dining Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 20 guests to attend. Please see briefing book for complete list.

1:45 pm- **ADOPTION EVENT**
2:30 pm East Room
OPEN PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- The President and First Lady, accompanied by stage participants, are announced into the East Room and proceeds to place on stage.
- Secretary Shalala makes brief remarks and introduces Dave Thomas, CEO, Wendy's Corporation.
- Dave Thomas makes brief remarks and introduces The First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Chief Judge Hamilton.
- Chief Judge Hamilton makes remarks and introduces Mayor Elect Anthony Williams.
- Mayor-Elect Williams makes remarks and introduces Charday Mays.
- Charday Mays makes remarks and introduces the President.
- The President makes remarks and invites the guests to the State Dining Room for a reception.
- The President and First Lady depart.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 180 guests to attend.

2:40 pm- **PRIVATE MEETING** w/Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams
3:20 pm Map Room

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1998
PAGE 3

CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:

The First Lady
Anthony Williams
Melanne Verveer
Jack Lew
Carol Thompson Cole

CONTACT: Katy Button 202/456-6266

3:20 pm

PROCEED to Room 450

3:30 pm-

HURRICANE MITCH BRIEFING WITH NGO'S

4:30 pm

Presidential Hall (Room 450 OEOB)

OPEN PRESS FOR REMARKS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Hattie Babbitt makes opening remarks and a presentation on the impact of Hurricane Mitch and introduces Marjorie Tsitouris, Director, CARE Emergency Group.
- Marjorie Tsitouris makes brief remarks and introduces Mrs. Gore.
- Mrs. Gore makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks.
- Hattie Babbitt makes remarks and introduces Maria Escheveste.
- Maria Escheveste makes brief remarks and opens the Q and A.
- Maria Escheveste moderates and closes the Q and A.
- Upon conclusion of the Q and A, the First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 140 guests to attend.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1998
PAGE 4

CONTACT: Kris Balderston 202/456-2572

4:40 pm-
5:00 pm

VIDEOS
The Diplomatic Reception Room
CLOSED PRESS/NO WH PHOTO

VIDEOS:

- Life Directions Award
- Israel - U.S. Conference on Women's Health
- Tony Bennett 50th Anniversary- An All-Star Tribute: Live By Request
- First Annual, Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Legacy of Service Celebration
- Juvenile Justice: Focus on the Future
- Women, Population and Science in the New Millennium

5:05 pm
5:10 pm

PHOTO OP w/Theresa Loar and Mother
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:

The First Lady
Theresa Loar
Anne Marie Loar

CONTACT: Theresa Loar 202/647-5440

OPTION:

6:40 pm-
6:55 pm

DROP BY Nobel Laureates Reception
State Dining Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

7:15 pm-
7:30 pm

MATSUI GOING AWAY PARTY
Yellow Oval Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Doris Matsui.
- Doris Matsui has the option of making remarks.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1998
PAGE 5

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 40 guest to attend.

RON The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 24, 1998

November 24, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUBJECT: Using the Internet to Increase Adoptions

Technology will be an ever more important part of achieving our national goals as we approach the new millennium. New technological tools mean new opportunities for progress -- helping us to strengthen the global economy, bolster public education, and improve the health of American families. Technology can also assist our continuing efforts to meet our national goal of doubling, by the year 2002, adoptions and other permanent placements from our Nation's foster care system.

As we celebrate National Adoption Month, it is fitting that we reflect on the important steps we have taken to strengthen our child welfare system and, specifically, to improve the process of adoption. Through the Family and Medical Leave Act and tax credits, we have made it easier for families to adopt children. We have worked to eliminate discrimination and delay based on race and ethnicity. And, last year, I was proud to sign into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act, tightening the time frame for decision-making and affirming that the health and safety of children in foster care must always come first.

We are making progress but there is more work to be done. Because geographic and other barriers to adoption still exist, we must do a better job of informing America's families about the many children that wait in foster care for permanent, adoptive homes. To give those children the future they deserve, to give our families the opportunity to provide them with happy, healthy homes, we must infuse the public child welfare system with the power of technology.

Therefore, I am directing you to work with the States, courts, private agencies, and others to develop a plan for expanding appropriate use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from the public child welfare system. There are approximately 100,000 children in our country waiting in foster care for permanent adoptive homes. Sharing information through a national Internet registry about children legally available for adoption could shorten the time needed to find adoptive families for such children. To take full advantage of the Internet's potential to promote adoptions while also ensuring appropriate confidentiality safeguards, close consultation with the States will be necessary.

You should report to me within 60 days with a plan to carry out this consultation; identify important issues and strategies to address them; and build on promising existing efforts to create an effective, national registry.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

30-30-30

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November 25, 1998

LENGTH: 1226 words

HEADLINE: U.S. HHS

HHS awards excellence in promoting **adoption**

BODY:

Secretary Shalala, **President** and Mrs. **Clinton** recognize individuals and organizations for contributions to helping children find permanent homes

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala today announced the 1998 recipients of the Department of Health and Human Services' "**Adoption** 2002" Excellence Awards. The awards were highlighted at a White House ceremony celebrating November as National **Adoption** Month. At the event, **President** and Mrs. **Clinton** honored the recipients for giving abandoned, neglected, or abused children a loving family and a safe and nurturing home.

Secretary Shalala also called for increased efforts to recruit and strengthen adoptive families and to shorten the time that children spend in foster care. She reported that the President's message to promote **adoption** is showing some results. From 1996 to 1997, **adoptions** increased by more than 10 percent - from 28,000 to 31,000 - the first significant increase since the federal program was established. However, HHS estimates that there are still more than 100,000 children who cannot return to their birth families and need families to adopt them. Typically, children awaiting **adoption** spend more than three years in foster care.

To help states and communities meet the goal of doubling the number of **adoptions** by 2002, HHS intends to develop a plan for expanding the use of the **Internet**. By putting the photos of children who are legally available for **adoption** on a national **Internet** service, the time that a child waits to find an adoptive family could be shortened. The plan also will identify important issues and strategies for addressing them, and examine ways to build on existing efforts that are underway in some states.

"One year ago **President Clinton** made history by signing the **Adoption** and Safe Families Act. That new law built on the administration's track record of breaking down barriers to **adoption** and established new tools to attain his goal of doubling the number of children adopted from foster care," said Secretary Shalala. "Today we honor the individuals and organizations who have demonstrated commitment and leadership in helping to find permanent and safe homes for children in foster care."

"**Adoption** 2002" is the HHS response to **President Clinton's** initiative to double by that year the number of children in foster care who are adopted or otherwise permanently placed. Many of the recommendations of the "**Adoption** 2002" report were included in the **Adoption** and Safe Families Act. The recommendations included unprecedented financial incentives to states to increase **adoptions**, put the safety of children first in placement decisions, and set swifter time frames for permanent placement decisions. It also recommended annual honors to those who make exemplary contributions toward meeting the **President's** goal.

"**President Clinton** has set an ambitious and critical challenge to the country to provide all children in foster care with permanent homes," said Olivia A. Golden, HHS assistant secretary for children and families. "In the past year we have witnessed an unprecedented collaboration between the federal, state and local governments with foundations, businesses and citizens to work together for **adoption**. Today's remarkable honorees have earned our most heartfelt appreciation."

The 1998 awards recognized contributions by adoptive families and leadership by individuals as well as

outstanding performance by organizations. A committee representing non-profit **adoption** agencies, child welfare and **adoption** advocates, adoptive parents, foundations, the business community, and state and federal offices reviewed and evaluated more than 65 nominations and selected eight winners in five categories.

The winners by category are:

Individual or Family Contributions

- Tim O'Hanlon, Ph.D., Ohio North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), Columbus, Ohio. Dr. O'Hanlon volunteers his time as the state representative for Ohio with NACAC. He created and maintains the **Adoption** Policy Resource Center Web site, and he has authored several books and articles on **Adoption** Advocacy.

- Governor and Mrs. Jim Edgar, State of Illinois, Springfield, Ill. Governor James and Mrs. Brenda Edgar are long-time champions of children's initiatives. They convened Project HEART to advise the state of Illinois in streamlining its **adoption** system and launched the Corporate Recruitment Initiative with the Illinois Hospital and Health Systems Association. Illinois **adoptions** have increased from 708 in 1991 to 4,239 in FY98.

Increased **Adoptions**

- Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of **Adoptions**, Atlanta, Ga. **Adoptions** have increased 66 percent since FY95. Regional **Adoption** Coordinators were placed in state service areas to advocate **adoption** and track the progress of adoptive children; privatization of services and placement was emphasized.

- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Springfield, Ill. Finalized **adoptions** were increased from 2,229 in FY97 to 4,293 in FY98. The "Illinois Permanency Initiative," to enable the department and juvenile courts to act more quickly in moving children to permanency, was enacted.

Support for Adoptive Families

- Hope for the Children, Inc., Rantoul, Ill. In FY98, 13 families were supported in adopting 14 children, 13 children are in the process of **adoption**, and three await court determinations; 53 volunteers provided 17,620 volunteer hours to the families. The agency also partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities to bring nearly \$8 million to communities for an intergenerational neighborhood care and support model.

- Three Rivers **Adoption** Council, Pittsburgh, Pa. The agency partnered with Black **Adoption** Services to complete family and child profiles and host a Celebration of Families for 600 people. It also joined the Exchange to serve 539 families and 869 children, leading to the placement of over 300 children. Post-placement services were provided to over 70 adoptive and foster families.

Philanthropy

- Kansas Association of Broadcasters, Topeka, Kan. KAB partnered with Kansas Families for Kids to produce radio and television spots valued at \$314,786, which resulted in an average of 200 calls per month. As a result, the number of children adopted in Kansas increased by 50 percent in just one year. KAB also began the "Kid of the Month," which features increased air time for hard-to-place children, developed an extensive Web site, and financed the first sibling reunion camp for 90 children separated in the Kansas foster care and **adoption** systems.

Judicial Improvement

- Judge Max Baer, Allegheny Juvenile Court, Family Division, Pittsburgh, Pa. As a result of Judge Baer's activities, Allegheny County doubled the number of **adoptions** to 457 in FY97-98. He initiated

the Statewide **Adoption** Network Legal Project to eliminate barriers to **adoption** and expedite **adoptions** through private and public partnership. He established the One Judge/One Family policy to ensure consistency in judicial oversight and strengthened it with The Masters Project to alleviate overcrowding at the Juvenile Court. He also supported the Family Mediation **Adoption** Project which involved birth parents to identify solutions that may have delayed **adoption**.

CONTACT: Michael Kharfen
Tel: +1 202 401-9215

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: November 25, 1998

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;internet and adoption and president w/3 clinton

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November 25, 1998, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 300 words

HEADLINE: Illinoisans receive three of eight national **adoption** awards

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton singled out Illinois' dramatic increase in **adoptions** for praise as he promised a national **Internet** registry of children legally eligible for **adoption**.

Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar and his wife, Brenda, the state Department of Children and Family Services, and the Rantoul-based nonprofit Hope for the Children were three of eight recipients of national **adoption** awards Tuesday from the federal government.

The Edgars, as well as representatives from the other groups, were on hand to receive the awards before being recognized by the president at the White House ceremony.

"With pioneering efforts like those in the state of Illinois, we are getting closer to our goal of doubling the number of children adopted or permanently placed by 2002," Clinton said.

The Edgars were honored for their personal efforts to champion **adoption** and other children's initiatives. The Edgars convened Project HEART to advise the state on streamlining its adopting system and launched a corporate recruitment initiative on **adoption**.

Illinois DCFS was praised because finalized **adoptions** have shot up 500 percent in the last seven years in Illinois - to 4,293 in 1998 - partly because of a new law that allows the department and juvenile courts to place children more quickly in permanent homes.

Hope for the Children received an award for helping 13 families adopt 14 troubled children this year; thirteen more children are in the process of being adopted, and three are awaiting court determinations. The charity also sponsored 53 volunteers who helped the adoptive families.

Called Hope Meadows, the 4-year-old project is located on a former Air Force base, where a community of child-welfare workers and volunteering retirees support parents who agree to adopt children in foster care.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 25, 1998

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Search: General News;internet and adoption and president w/3 clinton

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November 26, 1998

LENGTH: 922 words

HEADLINE: THE WHITE HOUSE

President Clinton announces expansion of the **Internet** to increase **adoptions**

BODY:

Today, the President will issue a new directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the **Internet** as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. The President will make the announcement with the First Lady at a White House ceremony marking National **Adoption** Month and celebrating new **adoptions** in the District of Columbia.

Creating an **Internet** Registry to Meet the President's Goals for **Adoption**. In 1996, **President Clinton** set a goal of doubling, by the year 2002, **adoptions** and other permanent placements from the public child welfare system. Since then, **adoptions** have increased; from 1996 to 1997 alone, **adoptions** increased by over 10 percent, from 28,000 to 31,000. Today, the President is directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a plan to expand **internet** use to share information about children who are legally free for **adoption** in order to shorten the time needed to find them adoptive families. HHS estimates that approximately 100,000 children in our nation's foster care system cannot return to their birth families and need families to adopt them. An effective national registry will help break down geographic barriers to **adoption** and assist in meeting the President's **adoption** goal. HHS Secretary Donna Shalala will report to the President within 60 days on a plan to work with the states and other leaders to carry out this effort.

Building on a Strong Record. Today's announcement builds on a deep commitment by the President, the First Lady, and the Administration to facilitate **adoptions** and improve the child welfare system. Since taking office, **President Clinton** has championed efforts to make foster care work better for the children it serves, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers, including high **adoption** costs and complex regulations:

- Achieving Landmark Legislative Reform. On November 19, 1997, the President signed the **Adoption** and Safe Families Act, reforming our nation's child welfare system and making it clear that the health and safety of children must be the paramount concerns of state child welfare services. This landmark legislation was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton Administration's **Adoption** 2002 report, which the President requested by executive memorandum on December 14, 1996, to meet his goals of doubling **adoptions** and permanent placements by the year 2002 and moving children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes. The Act tightened time frames for making permanent placement decisions for children and ensured health insurance coverage for all special needs children in subsidized **adoptions**. Also, it created new financial incentives for states to increase **adoptions**, and continued funding for services to keep families together when it is appropriate and safe.

- Making **Adoption** Affordable for Families. In 1996, **President Clinton** signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to **adoption**, helping middle class families for whom **adoption** may be prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since **President Clinton** took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal **adoption** assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, **President Clinton** ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit.

- Giving States Flexibility and Support. To test innovative strategies to improve state child welfare

systems, the Clinton Administration has granted waivers to 18 states, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided states with enhanced technical support and helped improve court operations. The President secured \$10 million in FY 1999 in new funds to support state efforts to implement the new **adoption** law, and has, through the **Adoption** Opportunities program, supported state and local innovative demonstration projects to promote **adoption**, provide post-adoptive services, and build new public-private partnerships. To prevent children from entering foster care in the first place, in 1993 the Clinton Administration enacted and secured federal funding for the Family Preservation and Support Program to help states, local governments, and service providers develop effective programs to serve children and families at risk.

- Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to **Adoption**. New inter-ethnic **adoption** provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, ensure that the **adoption** process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994.

- Providing Supports for Child Protection and **Adoption**. In 1993, **President Clinton** signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, enabling parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform legislation signed by the President maintained the guarantee of child protection and **adoption**, and did not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, and foster care and **adoption** services.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: November 27, 1998

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1998, AND THEREAFTER

This week, I witnessed a miracle -- actually 30 miracles. On Tuesday, here at the White House, I met 30 children who woke up in the morning as foster children but went to bed that night as members of permanent, loving families.

I met 12-year-old Charday Mays. She and her brother, Steven, who is 11, have lived in many different foster homes. But on Tuesday, both children were adopted by Edward and Rochelle Mays. Charday says, "This Thanksgiving, Steven and I have so much to be thankful for. We are now officially part of a family. That makes me very, very happy."

Ellen Wells had tears in her eyes as she described how it felt to finally adopt 8-year-old Jessica. When she moved in with Ellen, Jessica had just turned 7 -- and had lived in seven foster homes. That first day, Jessica sat down at the table and asked, "So, after this house, where do I have to go?" Ellen was dumbstruck. She says, "I understood that I was forever. Jessica did not." On Tuesday, as Jessica happily munched cookies with the other children, her eyes told the story. Now, she knows that Ellen is her mother -- forever.

Jessica, Charday and Steven were at the White House as part of Washington, D.C.'s 12th annual Adoption Day, a day when the city's Superior Court judges invite a number of families to finalize their adoptions together in celebration of National Adoption Month and as an inspiration to others to consider adopting. I was pleased to host this year's event at the White House.

In addition to the new families, we were joined by Washington, D.C.'s Mayor-elect, Anthony Williams, and Dave Thomas, founder of the Wendy's restaurant chain, both of whom were adopted. Williams was 3 when his mother took him in. Foster-care officials warned her that, because he had not yet spoken his first word, he would be trouble and never amount to anything. Today, he says with a grin, "I was some trouble, but I did amount to something."

Thomas, adopted at 6 weeks, is one of this country's leading adoption advocates. This week, he challenged corporate America to extend maternity benefits to adoptive parents.

Judge Eugene Hamilton presided over the ceremony. He and his wife, Virginia, have cared for 40 foster children in their home over the past 20 years, adopting two of them. He noted, "I hope the commitment we see here today will inspire many others to come forward."

11/25/98 Talking it Over

The President, who shares this hope, has set a national goal to double the number of adoptions and permanent placements in this country by the year 2002. A year ago, in order to move toward that goal, he signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which reformed our nation's child welfare system, making it clear that the health and safety of children come first.

The Act shortened the time it takes to make permanent placement decisions for children, guaranteed health insurance coverage for special-needs children, created new financial incentives for states to increase adoptions and funded services to keep families together when appropriate.

In addition, the President provided parents the opportunity to take time off to adopt a child by signing the Family and Medical Leave Act. And he has worked to end discrimination and delays based on race and ethnicity and created tax breaks to make it easier for families to adopt.

But although adoptions in this country have increased in the last year, there are still too many children who don't have permanent and safe families. Our job is not done.

For each of the 30 wonderful children who were adopted on Tuesday, there are 100 more just like them still in D.C.'s foster-care system. Nationwide, there are 100,000 children waiting to be adopted.

So, this week, the President asked Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to devise a plan for a national, Internet-based registry of eligible foster children. Simply telling their stories and showing their pictures can go far in placing children in permanent homes. According to one advocate, this "is the single most important thing we can do to find homes for kids."

Every child deserves a safe and permanent family. At Thanksgiving, every child deserves to know that there is a seat waiting at the table -- in good times and in bad. And every child deserves to know that the table will be filled not only with food but also with laughter and with love.

I know that this Thanksgiving will be special for Charday, Jessica, Steven and every one of the other 27 children I met this week. As I celebrate the holiday with my family, I will pray that next Thanksgiving every other child who needs a permanent and loving family will have one.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

To find out more about Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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ADOPTION EVENT – 9/23/99

Divider Title: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1999

ADOPTION EVENT

DATE: September 24, 1999
LOCATION: Presidential Hall, OEOP 450
BRIEFING TIME: 9:15am – 9:30am
EVENT TIME: 9:35am – 10:35am
FROM: Bruce Reed, Mary Beth Cahill

I. PURPOSE

To announce significant increases in the national rate of adoption, award the first adoption bonus awards to 35 states, as well as Adoption Opportunity grants, and receive an HHS national progress report on adoption.

II. BACKGROUND

Today, you and the First Lady will announce bonus awards of \$20 million to 35 states that have increased the number of children adopted from the public foster care system, and \$5.5 million in grants to innovative programs that remove barriers to adoption. You will also unveil a national progress report on adoption that documents the success of the Administration's strategy. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent – from 28,000 to 36,000 – and is on a pace to meet your goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

Incentive Awards Succeed In Increasing Adoptions. In the Administration's Adoption 2002 proposal and the adoption law of 1997, you created the first-ever financial incentive for states to increase adoptions of children from the foster care system. Today, you will release \$20 million in bonus awards to 35 states that in 1998 had exceeded their average adoption rate from 1995-1997. The \$20 million in bonuses provide for up to \$4,000 per adopted child, and \$6,000 for each child with special needs. In fact, the states' performance in 1998 entitled them to an additional \$22.5 million.

Innovative Grants Reduce Barriers To Adoption. You will also announce \$5.5 million in new awards under the Adoption Opportunities program. This program provides grants to public and private organizations to eliminate barriers to adoption, particularly for children with special needs. This year's grants reward a variety of initiatives, including efforts to increase adoptions of minority children, targeted field

research, and awards for collaborative planning to increase adoptions across jurisdictional lines.

Report Shows Clinton Administration Strategy Is Working. Since taking office, you have championed efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption. Today you will receive a progress report from the Department of Health and Human Services that documents the effectiveness of the Administration's strategy.

- **Reforming the Child Welfare System.** In 1997, you signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. This landmark law was based largely on recommendations from the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, which you requested by executive memorandum in order to meet your goal of doubling adoptions by 2002. The law expedited permanent placement decisions for children, ensured health insurance coverage for all special-needs children in subsidized adoptions, and created the bonus awards released today.
- **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, you signed in 1996, provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision helps middle class families for whom adoption – particularly of children with special needs – might have been prohibitively expensive.
- **Giving States More Flexibility and Support.** The Administration has granted waivers to 20 states and the District of Columbia to test innovative strategies for improving child welfare systems. In addition, it has secured new funds to support state implementation of the 1997 law and has, through the Adoption Opportunities program, supported local initiatives to promote adoption and provide post-adoptive services.
- **Using the Internet to Make Adoption Easier.** In 1998, you directed HHS to develop Internet tools to link children in foster care more quickly to possible adoptive families. Secretary Shalala reported that HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001 to break down geographic barriers to adoption.
- **Removing Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, help ensure that the adoption process is free of delays and discriminatory practices driven by race, culture and ethnicity. They do so by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which you signed in 1994.
- **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** The Family and Medical Leave Act, which you signed in 1993, enables working parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The 1996 welfare reform law you signed also maintains child protection and adoption guarantees.

Now Is The Time To Take Important Next Steps. To follow through on this record of achievement, today you and the First Lady will urge Congress to provide new support for young people leaving foster care. Under the current system, federal financial assistance for young people in foster care ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Your FY 2000 budget request increases funding by nearly \$300 million to help these youth secure health care, life skills training, and educational opportunities. With the Administration's strong support, the House has already passed bipartisan legislation to address these needs. Today you will urge the Senate to take prompt action on the companion measure and to safeguard the interests of vulnerable young people leaving foster care.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

The First Lady

Bruce Reed

Melanne Verveer

Mary Beth Cahill

Nicole Rabner

Lowell Weiss

Stage Participants:

The Manis Family

John and Brenda Manis recently adopted 3-year-old Mackenzie, and have been foster parents for 10 years. They have two biological children, Christopher, age 19, and Lindsay, age 16.

The Brown Family

Adrienne and Gilbert Brown adopted two children, Christopher, age 14, and Rodney, age 11, in 1994. They are also currently in the process of finalizing the adoption of Joshua, age 12.

Program Participants:

YOU

The First Lady

The Keane Family

Dawn and Steven Keane finalized their adoption of siblings Sarah, age 8, and Brian, age 11, in May 1999. They located Sarah and Brian through an Internet site sponsored by the National Adoption Center in Philadelphia. They have one biological son, Sean.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** and the First Lady are announced, accompanied by the Keane family, onto the stage.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Dawn Keane.
- Dawn Keane makes remarks and introduces Sean, Brian, and Sarah Keane.
- Sean, Brian, and Sarah Keane introduce **YOU**.
- **YOU** make remarks, work a ropeline, and depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Chart of state-by-state adoption bonuses
- HHS Adoption Progress Report

FY 1998 ADOPTION INCENTIVE BONUSES

State	3 Year Adoption Average (FY 95-97)	FY 98 Adoptions	% Increase	Bonus
Arkansas	138	251	82%	\$280,320
California	3,287	3,958	20%	\$1,841,837
Colorado	417	560	34%	\$419,540
Connecticut	207	229	11%	\$41,390
Florida	987	1,549	57%	\$1,290,603
Georgia	493	672	36%	\$449,642
Hawaii	85	297	249%	\$518,311
Illinois	2,200	4,656	112%	\$6,869,733
Indiana	495	774	56%	\$842,843
Iowa	350	517	48%	\$371,566
Maine	108	112	4%	\$11,288
Maryland	342	420	23%	\$317,947
Massachusetts	1,116	1,137	2%	\$39,508
Michigan	1,905	2,254	18%	\$942,554
Minnesota	258	427	66%	\$480,684
Mississippi	114	169	48%	\$187,194
Missouri	557	616	11%	\$110,999
Montana	115	144	25%	\$54,559
New Hampshire	45	50	11%	\$9,407
New Jersey	621	755	22%	\$409,193
New Mexico	147	197	34%	\$94,067
New York	4,716	4,822	2%	\$199,423
North Dakota	47	83	77%	\$67,728
Oklahoma	338	456	35%	\$280,320
Oregon	445	665	49%	\$586,980
Pennsylvania	1,224	1,494	22%	\$592,624
South Carolina	256	465	82%	\$500,438
South Dakota	56	58	4%	\$3,763
Texas	880	1,365	55%	\$1,350,806
Utah	225	250	11%	\$47,034
Vermont	75	116	55%	\$100,652
Washington	607	759	25%	\$291,609
West Virginia	182	211	16%	\$60,203
Wisconsin	467	589	26%	\$301,015
Wyoming	15	30	100%	\$28,220

Source: HHS Administration for Children and Families

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to take this opportunity to report on the notable progress that we have made in the past few years to increase the number of children moved from our nation's foster care system into adoptive and permanent homes.

In December of 1996, you laid out ambitious goals for the adoption of vulnerable children. You also called on the Department of Health and Human Services to devise ways to make adoption easier and faster, to move more children out of the foster care system and into safe, permanent and loving homes. Central to these efforts was the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, designed both to remove barriers to adoption and to provide incentives to the States for increasing the number of children adopted each year. The Department responded with the Adoption 2002 report, which outlined specific recommendations on how to achieve the goals that you laid out for the country's child welfare system. We are happy to report that we are already seeing significant results from the implementation of those recommendations.

Because of your strong commitment to these goals, the unwavering dedication of the First Lady, diligent work here at the Department, bipartisan congressional leadership and truly outstanding efforts by State and local adoption agencies, we are well on our way toward meeting your goal of doubling the number of adoptions and permanent placements for these children by 2002. In fact, the total number of adoptions rose to over 36,000 in 1998 from 28,000 in 1996. We are especially pleased to announce today that thirty-five States earned adoption incentive awards for their exceptional achievements.

While we recognize and applaud these successful efforts, it is also important to underscore that more work needs to be done. The Department is committed to continuing to work in partnership with the States to promote adoption and improve our child welfare system, giving our nation's most vulnerable children what every child deserves – a safe, stable home and a loving family environment.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Shalala

INTRODUCTION

This report follows up on the Department of Health and Human Services's (HHS) 1997 report to the President entitled *Adoption 2002*, which provided a bold blueprint of recommendations for reaching the President's ambitious goal of doubling the number of adoptions from the nation's child welfare system in the year 2002. Today, just two years later, the Department is delighted to report that:

- The number of adoptions from the public child welfare system nationwide has already increased from 28,000 in 1996 to 36,000 in 1998, fully on track for the President's target of 56,000 in the year 2002.
- The President signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), bipartisan legislation that incorporates many of the critical recommendations from the 1997 blueprint.
- Across the country, with leadership and support from HHS, States, courts and adoption agencies are moving rapidly not only to implement the national legislation but also to develop creative ways to overcome barriers and move children to loving permanent homes as rapidly as possible.
- Adoption is more accessible and affordable to families, because of the Family and Medical Leave Act and the investments in adoption assistance and in adoption tax credits made under this Administration.

These results are especially impressive because, like the *Adoption 2002* report, this report focuses on a specific group of the nation's most vulnerable children: approximately 110,000 children in the nation's public foster care system who cannot return safely to their own homes and need adoptive families if they are ever to experience a safe, loving, permanent home. Many of these children have "special needs", that is, characteristics which have historically made them more difficult to place in adoptive homes. For example, they may be older children rather than infants, children who are part of a sibling group, children of minority heritage, or children who have physical, intellectual, or emotional disabilities. Yet in response to the call by the President and the Congress for a clear commitment to permanent, loving homes for all children, we are proud to report that the response across the nation has been extraordinary.

The remainder of this report outlines the four strategies that we believe lie behind the results reported here:

- Aiming high and ensuring accountability for results;
- Reforming national and State legislative frameworks to remove barriers to adoption;
- Supporting and rewarding innovation; and
- Making adoption more accessible and affordable for families.

In addition, the appendix provides a detailed chart of the recommendations from the *Adoption 2002* report with their completion dates.

AIMING HIGH AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESULTS

The President set an ambitious goal for this Administration: to increase the number of children adopted out of the public child welfare system to 56,000 adoptions in the year 2002. Each year since the national commitment to the goal, the number of adoptions has risen. In 1997, the total number of adoptions rose to 31,000 from 28,000 in 1996. In 1998, we are pleased to announce that States achieved 36,000 adoptions. This represents

an unprecedented 29 percent increase in the number of adoptions nationwide over a three-year period (FY 1996-FY 1998).

As recommended in *Adoption 2002*, the Department followed up on the national goal by working with State partners to develop individual State goals that would add up to a national doubling of adoptions. For many States, the outcome focus has become a central part of their own approach to adoption. Iowa, for instance, has put in place a system to track key measures for the adoption program on a monthly basis and to closely monitor progress towards outcome goals. This outcome focus, a renewed utilization of adoption specialists and other targeted efforts, has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of adoptions in Iowa.

In addition, the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) provided an extraordinary new tool for focusing the nation and individual States on adoption outcomes. As a result of the commitment of the President and strong bipartisan Congressional leadership, ASFA included the first-ever outcome-based financial award in the child welfare field: an incentive to States to increase the number of adoptions for children waiting in the foster care system. The bonuses -- up to \$4,000 per child and \$6,000 for each child with special needs -- are awarded for States that exceed the number of children adopted compared to the previous year. States are to use these awards to further improve services, including post-adoption services, that are provided to children and families in the foster care system.

In FY 1999, 35 States will receive a share of the \$20 million in adoption incentive awards based on their FY 1998 performance. The numbers of adoptions have increased so dramatically, that, as specified in the law, we have made prorated adjustments in the awards to States. In this first award of bonuses, the 1998 numbers are compared to a 3-year average baseline. The 35 States are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The following table indicates the increases in adoption by State.

REFORMING NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

In order to create the broad-based changes that were needed to support the President's goal, the Administration and a broad bipartisan majority in the Congress, made significant changes in the legislative framework that undergirds the child welfare system. In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997, a legislative milestone for child welfare reform. The key provisions of the Act closely followed the central recommendations of *Adoption 2002* to ensure that children's safety is paramount in child welfare decision-making, that foster care is a temporary setting and not a place for children to grow up, and that the speed of decision-making in the child welfare system respects a child's developmental needs and sense of time. Key provisions in the law shorten the time frame for making permanency planning decisions,

establish a time frame for initiating proceedings to terminate parental rights, clarify reasonable efforts, and call for every State to ensure that its laws and regulations comply with the new provisions, so that children in the State's child welfare system are able to move to permanent placements or adoptive homes more quickly. To date, 49 States and Puerto Rico have made the required changes.

As States move to reform their own legislation, policy, and practice to come into compliance with ASFA and meet their adoption goals, the Department has played a forceful role in both holding States accountable for the rapid change called for in ASFA and supporting them, through hands-on assistance, information, and expertise. For example:

- To provide State policy-makers in general and State legislators in particular with information that would help them reform their own State legislative frameworks, the Department convened a cross-disciplinary group of experts who produced Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children. The guidelines are a technical assistance tool reflecting the best thinking of child welfare administrators, lawyers, judges, advocates and front-line workers. This document offers guidelines and model legislation that are intended to help those at the State and local levels examine their current processes and consider new directions to promote permanency.
- To help local and State experts share information and solutions, the Department convened ten technical assistance conferences across the country focused on ASFA implementation.
- To help States work on the implementation of ASFA, the Department increased training and technical assistance to States regarding ASFA implementation through the Adoption Information Clearinghouse and the Child Welfare Resource Centers.

Another key element of these reforms is the elimination of racial and ethnic barriers to adoption required by the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA), and the Inter-ethnic Adoption Provisions (IEP), enacted as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. These laws ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity. In order to support the success of the provisions, the Department has issued guidance and provided training and technical assistance that has helped the States in the implementation of this legislation. The Children's Bureau and the Office of Civil Rights at HHS have worked closely at the national and regional levels to help States examine their legislation and administrative practices to make sure they are in compliance with these laws.

SUPPORTING AND REWARDING INNOVATION

The Department recognizes that broad-based reform must happen at all levels – in federal legislation and policy, in State legislatures, in local court systems, and with public and private child welfare agency managers and line workers around the country. Creative leaders and programs throughout the country are working to ensure that foster care is a short-term safe haven for children as they move into a stable, permanent home. The Department has worked to spark new models by giving States the flexibility to test new practices through its child welfare waiver system and by funding innovations through its grant programs and specialized technical

assistance. We have captured the spirit of the success stories and promoted their replication through our Adoption Incentives Bonuses and Adoption Excellence Awards.

The Administration also forged partnerships with States to launch child welfare waiver demonstration projects, which allow States to test and evaluate child welfare service delivery and financing strategies. The Department approved seventeen child welfare waiver demonstrations in FY 1997 and 1998 and will expect to approve up to eight by the end of FY 1999. The Department encouraged States to focus on adoption and post-adoptive services, to ensure that adoptive placements are successful and prevent re-entry into the foster care system. Maine, for instance, will provide training on special-needs adoption to mental health and other professionals that work with adoptive families, adoptable children, and public and private adoption providers, and subsequently provide post-adoptive services.

The Department also has provided financial support to stimulate innovation in State and private child welfare agencies and with other key child welfare partners, including court systems.

- The Adoption Opportunities Program, increased by \$10 million in FY 1998, funds a variety of service innovations that seek not only to increase the number of adoptions, but also to support the success of adoptive placements. In FY 1999, the Department is awarding grants to recruit more minority adoptive families; to test new innovations in the placement of sibling groups, children with disabilities, and adolescents; and to provide post-legal adoptive services to prevent adoption disruptions. The Program also funds work to improve the system for interstate placement of children.
- The Promoting Safe and Stable Families program (formerly known as the Family Preservation and Support Services), signed into law in 1993, was revised to allow States to use the funds to promote and support adoptions.
- The Department's Court Improvement Program (CIP) provides funding to State courts to improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings. The CIP has strengthened the focus on judicial decision-making and the key role that courts play in attaining safe, permanent homes for children.
- In response to the President's request to recognize the numerous changes in policy and practice that bolster adoptions, the Department established the annual Adoption Excellence Awards. For the past two years, the Department has honored those States, organizations, businesses, individuals and others who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Winners have exhibited tireless commitment and creativity in recruiting adoptive families and moving children to permanent placement more quickly. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and thirteen in 1997.
- The 1998 winners were: Tim O'Hanlon, Ohio North American Council on Adoptable Children, OH; Governor James and Brenda Edgar, IL; Georgia Department of Human Resources, GA; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Hope for the Children, Inc., IL; Three Rivers Adoption Council, PA; Kansas Association of Broadcasters, KS; and Judge Max Baer, PA.
- The 1997 winners were: North American Council on Adoptable Children, MN; Resources for Adoptive Parents, MN; Athens County Children's Services, OH; National Adoption Center, PA; Jack Williams, Senior News Anchor for WBZ-TV 4, MA; Sherry Coy, Adoptive Mother, NV; The Badeau Family, PA; The Scott Family, AZ; The Neal Family, NC; Wendy's International and Dave Thomas Foundation, OH; South Carolina Families for Kids; and Lucas County Children's Services, OH.

Finally, at the President's request, the Department is exploring innovations in the use of technology to increase adoptions. In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop a plan to expand use of the internet to share information about children who are legally free for adoption in order to shorten the time needed to find them adoptive families. An effective national registry will help to break down geographic barriers to adoption and assist in meeting the President's adoption goal. HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001, working with States, some of whom have already launched internet registries, to reach all children who need a home and eliminate the delays in interstate adoptions.

MAKING ADOPTION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

The Administration has taken a several steps to make adoption more affordable for families and to support the formation of adoptive families. In 1993, President Clinton acted to help new adoptive families through the Family and Medical Leave Act, which enabled parents to take time off to adopt a child without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The Administration also has secured important financial support for adoptive families. In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In addition, adoptive families are eligible to receive the \$500 per-child tax credit, which President Clinton enacted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

ON TRACK TO MEET OUR GOALS:

The early progress of the *Adoption 2002* Initiative is an example of the way that an ambitious, common goal can galvanize a system to create widespread change. The challenges in the child welfare system are daunting. More than 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. Our most recent data indicate that the average time that these children are in out-of-home care is 2 years and 9 months. These sobering statistics underscore the need to continue the significant progress that has been made to date to move our country's most vulnerable children into safe, permanent, and loving homes more quickly.

The Administration also is working with Congress on another critical front to protect children for whom the child welfare system is not able to secure adoption and permanency. The President's Independent Living proposal aims to help the nearly 20,000 young people who leave foster care each year, having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children with the transition to independence by helping them earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills, like budgeting and securing housing and employment. Bipartisan legislation to increase funding for the Independent Living

Program, and provide health coverage for these young people to the age of 21, is moving through the 106th Congress.

The President recognized the critical importance of this issue when he challenged us all to undertake the *Adoption 2002* Initiative, with a goal that was bold enough to require fundamental changes throughout the child welfare system. In response, all of the partners in the system have demonstrated a commitment which has put the country confidently on track to meet the President's goal of our target of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. At the federal level, we have exercised leadership by creating a policy framework for child welfare reform, promoting and rewarding innovations at all levels, and providing financial assistance to individual families who choose to adopt. States and localities have responded by taking advantage of federal flexibility to design and implement policies that support permanence and adoptions and services that recruit adoptive families and provide ongoing support for adoptive placements. Moreover, non-profits and foundations have served as important partners in working to promote permanency, serving as contractors for the States, independent advocates for children and families, and sponsors of critical activities such as research for the National Adoption Exchange. Together, we have made tremendous progress in ensuring the safety, permanence, and well-being of our most vulnerable children.

APPENDIX A: ACHIEVEMENT OF ADOPTION 2002 RECOMMENDATIONS

Adoption 2002 Recommendations	Actions Completed	Description
Increase the Number of Adoptions	√	Numerical targets leading to a doubling of adoptions over five years were set at the National and State levels. Adoptions are up 38% from FY 1995 to FY 1998, keeping us on track to reach our goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002.
Provide Technical Assistance to States and Communities	√	Ten regional conferences were held in 1998, as well as technical assistance on drafting the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) State legislative requirements. The eight Resources Centers funded by the Children's Bureau, including the Resource Centers on Permanency Planning and Special Needs Adoptions, have provided critical information and expertise to the States.
Provide Financial Incentives	√	In September 1999, \$20 million was awarded to 35 States that successfully increased adoptions in FY 1998.
Implement the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA)	√	Guidance was issued in June 1997 and significant training and technical assistance was provided by the Children's Bureau and Office of Civil Rights to at least 40 States. The Office of Civil Rights has reviewed all State policies and practices for MEPA compliance and continues to work with States to ensure the appropriateness of any law changes in this area.
Track the Progress of States	√	Through the Adoption Incentives component of ASFA, the Department is collecting data through the Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System and reporting on State progress.
Recognize Successful States	√	The Department initiated the Adoption Excellence Awards in 1997 to honor States, organizations, businesses, and individuals who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and thirteen in 1997.

Promote Permanency for Children who Cannot Return Home	√	The enactment of the ASFA of 1997 was a major achievement in promoting permanency for children. As of September 1999, 49 States and Puerto Rico have passed legislation to comply with ASFA. With \$10 million in additional funding for the Adoption Opportunities program, the Department has increased training and technical assistance to the States, and has supported new initiatives to achieve increased adoptions of children in foster care, provide post-legal adoptive services and build effective collaborations for timely adoptions. Finally, ASFA extended the Court Improvement Program for an additional three years. The Department has supported State efforts, and in early 1999, the Department issued a program instruction to help clarify elements of the program.
Address Permanency Planning Earlier Through Timely Hearings	√	The Department's proposed regulation (published September 1998) expands on the provisions in ASFA that called for immediate permanency planning and shorter timeframes for hearings. The Children's Bureau also convened a group of experts from throughout the field to draft <i>Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children</i>, which were published in June 1999.
Clarify "Reasonable Efforts" and Other Federal Policies Related to Permanency and Safety	√	Both the ASFA legislation and the Department's proposed regulations have clarified "reasonable efforts" and other elements of promoting permanency.
Set Standards for Securing Permanency	√	The ASFA legislation and subsequent Department proposed regulations require "reasonable efforts" to secure a permanent home for a child in foster care and clarify that plans for reunification and for alternate permanency options can be concurrent. The Department also encouraged States to use the Federal Parent Locator Service through the publication of an Information Memorandum in January 1999.
Examine Alternative Forms of Permanency	√	Seven states and the District of Columbia have waivers to examine assisted guardianship/kinship permanence. In addition, a group of experts has convened several times in 1999 around kinship care issues and a report to Congress is pending.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REMARKS ON ADOPTION

THE WHITE HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

Acknowledgments: Olivia Golden, Pat Montoya, HHS; Members of Congress, the Brown, Manis, and Keane [KEEN] families, Carol Williams, former Children's Bureau Director and champion of adoption (t); adoption advocates; and one very special champion of foster children – 8-year old Mackenzie Snyder, who after hearing how so many foster children cannot afford to use anything but garbage bags for luggage, decided to collect suitcases for them. So far she has collected 1,000.

This summer, I saw a photograph that reminded me why the work we are doing to promote adoption in America is so vitally important.

It was a picture of a young woman in a green silk evening gown, high heels and a lace shawl. You could just see the anticipation and delight in her eyes.

It was a picture of 17-year old Deanna Collins -- taken by her adoptive parents on the night of her high school prom. Looking at that picture, it was difficult to believe that that smiling, confident young woman was the same girl I had welcomed to the White House just four years before. Back then, she was thirteen and had already spent eight years in foster care.

With her shoulders slumped, her eyes downcast, she told the audience gathered for National Adoption Month about her dreams of living in a place she could call home, a room she could call her own, a family she could love.

Not long after her visit, Deanna's dream came true. And it has been my privilege to watch this young person's life transformed by her adoption. With the love of her parents, with the confidence that comes from knowing that she will always have a place to go home to no matter what else happens in life, Deanna is thriving. She is a senior in high school now, and plans to major in social work in college.

Every time I need inspiration for our fight to strengthen and increase adoption in America, I think of Deanna. I think of Washington's Mayor Tony Williams, who told us at another Adoption Month commemoration last year how at age 3, he was about to be declared 'unadoptable' and institutionalized by the state when Virginia Williams opened her arms and welcomed him into her family. Mrs. Williams is here today and all of us are grateful that you gave your son his "second chance." And I think of the thousands of foster children in America who are still waiting and hoping for the same chance Deanna and Mayor Williams had to grow and blossom in a loving family.

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have worked to address the challenges of foster care and adoption in America. I have represented prospective parents in court, helping them navigate the bureaucratic mazes of adoption. I have listened to their frustrations with the red tape that too often kept them from sharing their lives with the children who so badly need their love. I have met foster children who have spent their childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home. Children such as the teenage boy the President and I met in the Oval Office two years ago, who, when asked where he lived, answered, "All over Fairfax County."

In many ways, giving more of our children the chance to know the love and support of a family has become a personal crusade. I have held meetings, roundtables, and annual celebrations of National Adoption Month here at the White House. I have worked with advocates, and business leaders such as Wendy's founder Dave Thomas, who as an adopted child himself, has dedicated so much of his time and personal resources to promoting adoption among his employees and across America. With each meeting, I became more and more convinced that the time was long overdue to reform our foster care system. Our children are simply spending too many years – the average is just under three – in foster care.

We need to identify and eliminate the obstacles that keep them there. We need to change our foster care system so that the speedy placement of children in loving, safe, *permanent* homes become its one, simple, driving mission.

Because of the commitment of so many of you in this room, we have made much progress toward that goal. We helped adoptive parents carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The first bill the President signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows new parents -- including adoptive parents -- to take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs and health insurance.

We put an end to racial discrimination in adoption. The President signed and strengthened the Multiethnic Placement Act, prohibiting adoption agencies from keeping children of one race from the safe and loving arms of parents of another. We made adoption more affordable, putting in place tax credits for new adoptive families. We are taking steps to use the Internet to help match waiting children with loving homes.

And most important, together we crafted legislation to dramatically reduce the amount of a time a child spends in foster care. We said that no child would have to wait longer than 12 months – down from 18 months -- before the court considered his or her permanent placement. For the first time, we offered states financial incentives to move more children out of foster care and into permanent homes; and gave them the flexibility to try new strategies to accomplish that goal. And we set a national goal of doubling the number of children adopted annually – from 28,000 to 56,000 by the year 2002. And though there were moments when it looked like it wouldn't pass, we fought hard to make the Adoption and Safe Families Act law in 1997. In a few moments the President will offer new evidence of our continued success.

But we still have much more to do. Two weeks after the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, I went to California to meet with a group of young people who had “aged out” of foster care. They told me about the struggles they had – about being forced out of their foster homes on their eighteenth birthdays, about living in homeless shelters while trying to finish school, about getting sick and having no one to turn to for medical care or comfort.

These young people are our responsibility. We cannot ignore the potential of anyone of these children. One of the remarkable young women I met is now at Yale Law School. That is why I was pleased to announce a new proposal in the President's balanced budget to help former foster children make the transition to independence. The House, under the bipartisan leadership of Rep. Nancy Johnson and Rep. Ben Cardin, (who are here with us today), has passed a bill that would allow former foster children to remain on Medicaid until age 21, and give them the extra help they need to finish high school, find work and a place to live. Now I call on the Senate to take action on a companion bill sponsored by Sen. Chafee and Rockefeller. There is no reason we can't pass this bill this year.

The progress we celebrate today would not have been possible without so many of you in this room – adoption advocates, social workers, state and local leaders, but most of all our adoptive parents. I will never forget the boy I met three years ago at a Mother's Day roundtable for mothers and their adopted children. At the end of the discussion, we went around the room, asking the children if they had anything else to say. The final boy to speak looked up at the woman sitting next him, and said quietly, "I just want to thank my mother."

With that one simple adoring look and those few words, he summarized what we all had been trying to say all afternoon. So to our parents, we thank you for making that leap of faith, for opening your homes and your hearts, for seeing that spark of possibility and love in every child.

Now it is my privilege to introduce Dawn Keane, who with her husband Steven and son Sean, have just finalized their adoptions of Sarah and Brian.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

1/29/99 – FL New Efforts

Divider Title: _____

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS TO
THE COUNCIL ON ADOPTABLE CHILDREN'S
ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY
NEW YORK, NY
NOVEMBER 5, 1998**

Good evening. I want to thank you for honoring me with this award. I only wish I could be there in person to congratulate everyone associated with the Council on Adoptable Children for your 25 years of leadership on behalf of New York's most vulnerable children. From shortening the adoption process to matching over 2,000 special needs children with families, you have helped find stable and loving homes for the children of this great city.

Those of us who care about strengthening our nation's foster care system and improving adoptions have a lot to celebrate right now. Under the President's leadership, we passed the Family and Medical Leave Act, which gives time off to parents who adopt a child. We provided a tax credit for families who adopt. We've worked to eliminate discrimination and delays based on race and ethnicity.

And almost exactly one year ago, the President signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act -- a landmark piece of legislation that was the result of the hard work and dedication of so many of you. On that day, the President helped to fulfill his promise to make the child welfare system work better for the children it serves. To always put their health and safety first. To move children more quickly into safe and permanent homes. And to double the number of children adopted or permanently placed by the year 2002.

But, realizing these goals will take the sustained commitment not only of federal, state, and local governments, but of private partners as well. And no one understands that better than the Council on Adoptable Children. With your continuing vision and dedication, we can help make sure that all children grow up with parents who love them...and a safe, permanent place to call home.

Thank you again for this award and honor. I hope you have a wonderful evening.

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Sacramento Bee

View Related Topics

September 25, 1999, METRO FINAL

SECTION: MAIN NEWS; Pg. A8

LENGTH: 392 words

HEADLINE: ADOPTION RATE IS UP FOR FOSTER KIDS

BYLINE: Bee Washington Bureau

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

For the first time in 20 years, adoptions among foster children are increasing, raising hopes that the nation can make a dent in the number of children -- now a half-million nationwide -- under foster care.

President Clinton, in a White House ceremony Friday, hailed the 22 percent rise in adoptions over the last year as evidence that his 1997 incentive program is working. He predicted that the United States would reach his goal of doubling foster-**child adoptions**, to 56,000 annually, by 2002.

The president said the higher numbers are necessary to pare back adoption waiting times. Roughly four in five foster children are eventually reunited with their parents, but among the rest, wait times for permanent placement often exceed three years.

Clinton said last year's 36,000 foster-care adoptions were a testament to legislation he signed two years ago that provides cash bonuses to states where adoptions are on the rise. In the current round, Illinois was the big winner, its adoption rate having more than doubled to 4,650. For its success, Illinois got \$ 6.9 million -- more than one-third of the bonus money.

Thirty-four other states also showed adoption increases and will get a share of the federal incentive pot of \$ 20 million. For California, which had 3,958 adoptions last year -- up 20 percent from the 1995-97 average -- the bonus will be \$ 1.8 million.

The legislation was designed to provide the states between \$ 4,000 and \$ 6,000 for each adopted child in excess of their 1995-97 average. But the actual bonuses represented less than half that amount because the administration and Congress underestimated the amount of progress that would be made.

Clinton said he hoped Congress would provide the remainder of the funds yet this year. The states are expected to use the federal money to make further improvements in their foster care programs.

"I think all of us are very proud of what these states have done for some of their most vulnerable citizens," said Clinton.

In addition to announcing the bonuses, the president awarded \$ 5.5 million to public and private organizations studying ways to increase adoption rates of foster children. Among groups receiving the funds are the Upper Midwest American Indian Center in Minneapolis, \$ 250,000; and the Medina Children's Services of Seattle, \$ 250,000.

GRAPHIC: Associated Press photograph

President Clinton, flanked by adoptees Sarah Keane, 7, and brother Brian, 11, applauds during an

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999
FINAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF
MAYORS ADVANCE:

GRACE GARCIA
202/208-4693 PHONE
888/579-7888 PAGER

U.S. CONFERENCE OF
MAYORS PRESS ADVANCE:

STEPHEN LAMB
202/219-3719 PHONE
800/759-8888 PAGER
PIN #110-8643

SCHEDULER:

WENDY ARENDS
202/456-7007 PHONE
202/456-5340 FAX
202/518-8209 HOME
WHCA PAGER #4781

PREV RON

The White House

12:30pm- DROP-BY with Mary Francis Berry
12:40pm Map Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:

The First Lady
Mary Francis Berry

12:40pm- DROP-BY with Ramapo Children of Chernobyl
12:55pm Diplomatic Reception Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:

The First Lady
22 Russian singers

12:55pm PROCEED to Old Executive Office Building

1:00pm- OPL BUSINESS BRIEFING
1:15pm Indian Treaty Room
Old Executive Office Building
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999
PAGE 2

FORMAT:

- Ellen Lovell introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion, the First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 75-100 guests

1:20pm DEPART West Executive Drive
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE Capital Hilton Hotel
[Drive time: 5 minutes]

1:25pm ARRIVE Capital Hilton Hotel

GREETERS:
Hotel Manager

1:30pm- MEET AND GREET
1:40pm Continental Room
Capital Hilton Hotel
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: 12 guests

1:45pm- REMARKS TO U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
2:10pm Presidential Ballroom
Capital Hilton Hotel
HRC Hold: Continental Room
Phone: 202/639-5400
Fax: 202/639-5444
OPEN PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- The First Lady and Mayor Deedee Corradini, President, U.S. Conference of Mayors, are announced into the Presidential Ballroom by Mayor Wellington Webb, Vice President, U.S. Conference of Mayors.
- The First Lady and Mayor Corradini proceed onto stage.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999
PAGE 3

- Mayor Corradini makes welcoming remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion, the First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 280 guests

2:15pm DEPART Capital Hilton Hotel
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE South Portico
[Drive time: 5 minutes]

2:15pm- DOWN TIME
2:55pm

3:00pm- BRIEFING [w/MRS. GORE]
3:05pm Red Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Nicole Rabner
Trooper Sanders

3:05pm PROCEED to Blue Room

3:05pm- MEET AND GREET [w/MRS. GORE]
3:15pm Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Please consult briefing book for participants.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999
PAGE 4

3:15pm-
4:00pm

FOSTER CARE EVENT [w/MRS. GORE]
East Room
OPEN PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- The First Lady and Mrs. Gore, accompanied by Secretary Shalala, and event participants are announced from the Blue Room into the East Room.
- Secretary Shalala makes welcoming remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Terry Harrak.
- Terry Harrak makes remarks and introduces Mrs. Gore.
- Mrs. Gore makes remarks and introduces John Guiterrez.
- John Guiterrez makes remarks.
- The First Lady thanks guests for attending and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 180 guests

4:00pm-
4:30pm

PRIVATE MEETING
Residence
CLOSED PRESS/NO WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Audrey Haynes
Peter Knight
Craig Smith
Melanne Verveer

RON

The White House

EACH ONE REACH ONE

Goal: *Relationships: Equality can be achieved through open communication between youth and adults based on respect, compromise, trust and support while respecting one another's boundaries.*

Strategies:

1. Workers should have lower caseloads to devote more time to individual clients and reduce turnover rates.
2. More training for direct-service employees and volunteers to communicate better with young people
3. Study why turnover is so high with direct level staff and how to reduce it
4. More federal monitoring (surprise visits) of state agencies and foster homes

Goal: *Empowerment: Youth and adults should become empowered and organized so they may identify, create and utilize all community resources.*

Strategies:

1. More time and money for conferences at local, state, and national levels.
2. Youth involvement in contracts, decision making.
3. Federal Youth Service Bureau (FYSB) youth advisory board.
4. Window to leave care and come back if needed (re-entry).
5. More info on preventative measures (i.e., birth control).
6. Federal foster care bill of rights.
7. Keep young people aware of changes in agencies.
8. Caseworkers need to be more accurately informed of policy changes.
9. Channels for young people to access administrators.

Goal: *Esteem: Through positive, individualized youth and adult partnerships, a higher sense of self is achieved by both parties.*

Strategies:

1. More funding for transitional living programs.
2. Have service recipients help the community by volunteering with those agencies that helped them.

THE VOYAGERS

Goal: *Promote youth/adult partnerships.*

Strategies:

1. For youth empowerment in agencies.
 - a. Educate youth on system (using videos, pamphlets, etc.).
 - b. Youth involved in training of foster parents and case workers.
 - c. Youth should be more prevalent in the social work office.
 - d. Youth could intern at government agencies.
2. In businesses to have access resources and opportunities.
 - a. Form partnerships with Chamber of Commerce.
 - b. Employment training for kids in care.
 - c. Financial support/donations.
3. In community services/activities.
 - a. Adults encourage and support youth's speaking out and being leaders in the community.
 - b. By having youth volunteer in the community with adults.
 - c. Reciprocity agreements with agencies and youth/adults.
 - d. Promote youth/adult partnerships with community leaders, i.e., talk to city councils, schools, churches, county supervisors, etc., charities, focus groups and invite discussion with youth and adults.
 - e. Educate the community that youth are the future and need partnerships to show our positive successes.
4. In the legislatures.
 - a. Create a regular forum for youths to bring up concerns and issues related to being in care.
 - b. Create and support bills that will benefit the well being of children in care.
 - c. Provide legislatures with the opportunity to experience what being in care is really like (visits of foster homes and programs, etc.).
 - d. Develop resource information for youth in care on how to have a political impact.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the First Lady

For Immediate Release

January 29, 1999

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
ANNOUNCES NEW EFFORTS TO SUPPORT TRANSITIONING FOSTER CARE YOUTH

January 29, 1999

Today at the White House, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, accompanied by Mrs. Tipper Gore and Secretary Donna Shalala, announces that the President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years in new support for young people who leave our nation's public foster care system at age 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship.

Foster Care Youth Reaching Adulthood Face Tough Challenges. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. Today, federal financial support for these young people ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth are not adequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting.

New Support For Youth Leaving Foster Care. The President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years to provide a framework for enhanced federal support to these young people:

Increasing the Federal Independent Living Program by 50 Percent. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children to prepare for independence by helping them to earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Since 1992, the program's funding has been frozen at \$70 million. The President's budget will increase the program by 50 percent, investing \$175 million over five years in these services.

Offering Time Limited Economic Support. Young people often transition from foster care with no economic support. The President's budget will include \$50 million over four years to create new competitive grants to States to complement the Independent Living program services by providing time-limited financial support for these young people as they develop the skills and education needed to move into the workforce. Providing Health Insurance. Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The President's budget will propose that these young people remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. His budget will include \$50 million over five years for this purpose.

Increasing the Transitional Living Program. The President's budget will include a 33 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides competitive funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents, ages 16-21. The program

is currently funded at \$15 million; the President's budget will increase that funding by \$5 million for FY 2000.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS
ON FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION
January 29, 1999

Today's announcement builds on a deep commitment by the President, the First Lady, and the Administration to facilitate adoptions and improve the child welfare system. Since taking office, President Clinton has championed efforts to make foster care work better for the children it serves, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down financial, racial, geographic and bureaucratic barriers to adoption:

- Achieving Landmark Legislative Reform. On November 19, 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, reforming our nation's child welfare system and making it clear that the health and safety of children must be the paramount concerns of state child welfare services. This landmark legislation was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton Administration's Adoption 2002 report, which the President requested by executive memorandum on December 14, 1996, to meet his goals of doubling adoptions and permanent placements by the year 2002 and moving children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes. The Act tightened time frames for making permanent placement decisions for children and ensured health insurance coverage for all special needs children in subsidized adoptions. Also, it created new financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, and continued funding for services to keep families together when it is appropriate and safe.

- Making Adoption Affordable for Families. In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, President Clinton ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit.

- Giving States Flexibility and Support. To test innovative strategies to improve state child welfare systems, the Clinton Administration has granted waivers to 18 states, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided states with enhanced technical support and helped improve court operations. The President secured \$20 million in FY 1999 in new funds to support state efforts to implement the new adoption law. In addition, through the Adoption Opportunities program, the President has supported state and local innovative demonstration projects to promote adoption, provide post-adoptive services, and build new public-private partnerships. To prevent children from entering foster care in the first place, in 1993 the Clinton Administration enacted and secured federal funding for the Family Preservation and Support Program (renamed in 1997 the Preserving Safe and Stable Families Program) to help states, local governments, and service providers develop effective programs to serve children and families at risk.

- Using the Internet to Promote Adoption. In November, 1998, the President issued a new directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. Effective use of the

Internet will help to meet the President's goal of doubling, by the year 2002, adoptions and other permanent placements from the public child welfare system.

- Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption. New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994.

- Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption. In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, enabling parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform legislation signed by the President maintained the guarantee of child protection and adoption, and did not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, and foster care and adoption services.

January 29, 1999

**EVENT ANNOUNCING NEW SUPPORT FOR
TRANSITIONING FOSTER CARE YOUTH**

Date: January 29, 1999
Time: 3:00pm- 4:00pm
Location: East Room
From: MaryEllen McGuire

I. PURPOSE

To announce the President's FY 2000 budget initiatives supporting transitioning foster care youth.

II. BACKGROUND

The President's FY 2000 Initiative

The President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years to provide a framework for enhanced federal support to foster youth transitioning into adulthood. The specific initiatives are as follows:

- A 50 percent Increase in the Federal Independent Living Program. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children to prepare for independence by helping them to earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Since 1992, the program's funding has been frozen at \$70 million. The President's budget will increase the program by 50 percent, investing \$175 million over five years in these services.
- Time Limited Economic Support. Young people often transition from foster care with no economic support. The President's budget will include \$50 million over four years to create new competitive grants to States to complement the Independent Living program services by providing time-limited financial support for these young people as they develop the skills and education needed to move into the workforce.
- Health Insurance. Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The President's budget will propose that these young people remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. His budget will include \$50 million over five years for this purpose.
- 5 Million Dollar Increase in the Transitional Living Program. The President's budget will include a 33 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides competitive funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents, ages 16-21. The program is

currently funded at \$15 million; the President's budget will increase that funding by \$5 million to \$20 for FY 2000.

Emancipated Foster Youth

Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. Today, federal financial support for these young people ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth are not adequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing

The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Nicole Rabner
Trooper Sanders

Meet and Greet

The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Jody Butler, Strategic Coordinator for the National Foster Care Awareness Project
Ruth Massinga, CEO, Casey Family Program
Richard Ford, President, Board of Trustees, Casey Family Program
Robin Nixon, Child Welfare League of America
Ralph Smith, Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Pat Latke, Homeless Outreach Worker (Works extensively with Mrs. Gore.)
Terry Harrak, Former Foster Care Youth, Program Speaker
John Guterrez, Former Foster Care Youth, Program Speaker
Dorothy Forsyth, Foster Care Mother
Eight Additional Foster Care Youth (See attached bios.)

East Room

The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Terry Harrak, Former Foster Care Youth
John Guterrez, Former Foster Care Youth

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- The First Lady and Mrs. Gore proceed to the Red Room for briefing
- The First Lady and Mrs. Gore proceed to the Blue Room for meet and greet
- The First Lady, Mrs. Gore, Secretary Shalala and ten former foster care youth are announced into the East Room
- The First Lady, Mrs. Gore, Secretary Shalala and two foster care speakers proceed to the stage
- Secretary Shalala makes remarks and introduces The First Lady
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Terry Harrak
- Terry Harrak makes remarks and introduces Mrs. Gore
- Mrs. Gore makes remarks and introduces John Guiterrez
- John Guiterrez makes remarks
- The First Lady thanks guests for attending and depart

V. PRESS PLAN

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Laura Schiller.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: THE FIRST LADY

WHAT: SUPPORTING FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

WHEN: FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999

WHERE: EAST ROOM

NOTES: APPROX. 180 GUESTS/OPEN PRESS/BUSINESS ATTIRE

FROM: CAPRICIA PENA VIC MARSHALL, LAURA SCHWARTZ

3:00 p.m. THE FIRST LADY and MRS. GORE arrive in Red Room for briefing.

<u>Briefing Participants</u> Nicole Rabner Trooper Sanders
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3:05 p.m. THE FIRST LADY and MRS. GORE proceed to Blue Room for meet and greet.

<u>Blue Room Participants:</u>
<i>Event participants:</i> Secretary Donna Shalala John Gutierrez-Los Angeles, CA Terry Harrack-Alexandria, VA - speaker
<i>Supporters/Foundation: 5-6 people</i> Ruth Massinga, CEO, Casey Family Program Richard Ford, President, Board of Trustees, Casey Family Program Robin Nixon, Child Welfare League of America Ralph Smith, Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation Pat Letke, Christ House Judy Butler, Strategic Coordinator, National Foster Care Awareness Project
<i>Former Foster Care Youth:</i> Margaret Duarte - Tuscon, AZ Analeah Charles-Brooklyn, NY Alfred Gene Perez-San Pablo, CA Joy Warren-California/New Haven, CT Leah McBride-Cincinnati, Ohio Terri Faye Yaden-Vienna, VA Joseph Forsyth-Shelton, CT and Dorothy Forsyth (foster mother) Rico Shaw-Baltimore, Maryland

3:15 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY and MRS. GORE are announced into the East Room accompanied by Secretary Shalala, and former foster care youth.

PROGRAM BEGINS

Secretary Shalala makes remarks and introduces **THE FIRST LADY**.

THE FIRST LADY makes remarks and introduces former foster youth, Terry Harrack.

Terry Harrack makes remarks and introduces **MRS. GORE**.

MRS. GORE makes remarks and introduces former foster youth John Gutierrez.

John Gutierrez makes remarks.

4:00 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY thanks guests for attending and departs.

WHITE HOUSE EVENT ON SUPPORTING TRANSITIONING FOSTER CARE YOUTH

January 29, 1999

FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

TERRY HARRAK, 19 (SPEAKER)

Alexandria, VA

Terry entered foster care at the age of 16 after spending several months on her own with no family support. At the age of 18, having just started her senior year of high school, Terry emancipated from foster care with no job or place to live. Despite becoming homeless, she continued to attend school full time while staying at friends' homes, teachers' homes, metro terminals, and hospital emergency rooms. Terry graduated from high school in June 1998 and became a participant in the Living Independently for Tomorrow (LIFT) program of Residential Youth Services in Alexandria, Virginia, which has provided her with critical services and a place to live. Terry is currently working and attends a local community college.

Established in 1991 as a Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth, LIFT provides housing, life skills training, education and employment support. Youth in the program live in apartments, participate in individual and group life skills instruction, receive counseling from caring staff, and are helped to achieve educational and employment goals.

Contact: Dr. Vera Jackson, Living Independently for Tomorrow Program (703) 548-8334

JOHN GUTIERREZ, 19 (SPEAKER)

Culver City, California

John was in foster care from the age of 12. He has lived in group homes, one foster home and in Los Angeles County's 24-hour emergency shelter for foster youth. John has no family. During the course of his high school career, John attended eight different schools and in the beginning, was known to get into trouble. Then, at the age of 17, John decided to turn his life around. By graduation, John had a 3.0 grade point average and is currently studying art at Santa Monica City College. John holds two part-time jobs: one as an administrative assistant at a law firm and another as a teacher's aide at a middle school. At the age of 19, John is preparing to leave the transitional housing in which he currently lives to move to an apartment of his own.

John credits his two group home counselors, his girlfriend, and now his independent living social worker through United Friends of the Children Bridges, with making the difference in his life. United Friends of the Children Bridges provides transitional housing with support services, employment preparation and placement assistance.

Contact: Clare Faulkner, United Friends of the Children Bridges (310) 338-3646

ANALEAH CHARLES, 18
New York, New York

Analeah is a young adult in the care of New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS). In March 1998, Analeah came into foster care as a voluntary placement and became a resident of a city-operated boarding house. Analeah soon began to participate in ACS's Independent Living (IL) Program and is currently an active member of the Program's Peer Leadership Council. With support from the program, Analeah has excelled academically. Determined to finish her high school education at her Catholic school, she secured a partial scholarship and pays the rest of her tuition with earnings from a part time job. Analeah plans to attend college and has participated in the IL Programs' SAT preparation and college application tutorials.

The Independent Living (IL) Program, sponsored by Administration for Children's Services of New York, assists foster care youth in their transition to adulthood. The Independent Living Program trains foster youth in the life skills they need to survive, and offers them assistance in pursuing their education, seeking employment, and locating safe and affordable housing.

Contact: Leonora Wiener, Administration for Children's Services of New York (212) 266-2100

MARGARET DUARTE, 22
Tucson, Arizona

Margaret was in foster care from the age of five. Graduating fifth in her high school class, Margaret was offered several college scholarships and decided to attend the University of Arizona where she plans to graduate with a degree in finance and accounting this May. In order to give back to her community, Margaret volunteers at the Casa de los Ninos crisis shelter, a residential facility that provides shelter to abused and neglected children. Although she has lived on her own since high school, Margaret maintains a strong relationship with her foster mother who cared for her since she was eight.

Casey Family Services helped a great deal in Margaret's transition to college and adulthood. They provided her with necessary resources, included her in workshops on independent living, budgeting and finance, and taught her how to control and deal with anger. Casey also provided Margaret with a college scholarship throughout her five years of post secondary education.

Contact: Maureen Andrews, The Casey Family Program (520) 323-0886 x239

JOE FORSYTH, 19
Shelton, Connecticut

Joe entered foster care at the age of 11 and spent time in two State foster homes, a shelter, and a residential facility. At the age of 14, Joe was placed with a foster family through Casey Family

Services. Joe worked hard in high school and was admitted into Honors level classes. He also was a two time State wrestling champion. In addition to his studies, Joe has mentored younger students and volunteered to train foster parents. Currently, Joe is attending Springfield College in Massachusetts where he studies Applied Exercise Science on a full athletic scholarship. In 1998, Joe was asked to speak about foster care reform at a policy seminar hosted by the Institute for Educational Leadership held on Capitol Hill. Joe credits his success to his foster family, who stood by him even in times of trouble, and the hard work and dedication of his high school wrestling coach.

Contact: Lee Mullane, Casey Family Services (203) 929-3837

LEAH McBRIDE, 25
Cincinnati, Ohio

Leah started in foster care at the age of 15 and moved into the Lighthouse Independent Living Program at 17. She has completed high school, holds an associates degree, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree. Leah now works part time at Lighthouse teaching independent living skills and mentoring current program participants. She has spoken to hundreds of foster care parents, business leaders, and other community members about the needs of emancipating foster care youth. Leah also devotes time to encouraging other foster youth to set goals, be persistent in working towards them, and not to let go of their dreams.

The Independent Living (IL) Program through Lighthouse, in which Leah spent a year and a half, is designed to promote self sufficiency in youth by gradually turning over their major life responsibilities. As they learn to become self sufficient, the program allows foster youth as young as 15 ½ to live in their own apartment with intensive support and assistance.

Contact: Mark Kroner, Lighthouse Youth Services (513) 475-5680

ALFRED PEREZ, 22
San Francisco, California

Alfred was in foster care for eleven years. In his last four years in care, he lived in eleven different placements, mostly group homes. During that time, Alfred carried his belongings from place to place in a plastic garbage bag. At age 15, Alfred started participating in the Contra Costa County Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) where he learned about life skills and employment. Alfred also became involved with the California Youth Connection (CYC), a nonprofit organization that involves foster youth in lobbying for their welfare at the local and State levels. Alfred graduated from San Jose State University in 1998, and has since joined CYC as a full time statewide outreach coordinator.

Through the Independent Living Skills Program, Alfred learned a variety of life skills, received job training, and had basic educational skills reinforced. Through his participation in the

California Youth Connection (CYC) Alfred gained leadership skills, professional experience in public policy, and learned the importance of public participation in the policy making process. Alfred met the First Lady in November when she visited the University of California at Berkeley to discuss the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

Contact: Alfred Perez, California Youth Connection (415) 398-1063

RICO SHAW, 18
Baltimore, Maryland

At the age of 10, Rico entered the foster care system upon the death of his mother. At 17, he was referred by a social worker to the local welfare to work program, the Glenarden Campus of Opportunity. Rico's "campus" career assessment focused on earning a GED and securing a job in order to join an independent living program. Rico entered into a UPS Professional Job Readiness and Life Skills training class and enrolled in a GED program. Three weeks after entering the Job Readiness class, Rico was hired by UPS. This past September, Rico moved into his own apartment and is scheduled to take the GED examination in May of this year.

The UPS School-to-Career Partnership for Maryland Youth in Foster Care provides youth emancipating from foster care with part-time jobs, post-secondary educational opportunities and support services. The program works in partnership with the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Living Classrooms Foundation to support emancipating foster care youth.

Contact: Kevin Garvey, UPS School to Work Program (301) 604-4548

JOY WARREN, 25
New Haven, CT

Joy was in foster care from the age of 13. She has two sisters, one of whom recently left foster care and one who is still in high school. An active advocate on behalf of foster youth, Joy worked with the California Youth Connection (CYC) to improve the foster care system. Joy graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and currently attends Yale Law School. Mrs. Clinton met Joy at the Destination Future Conference in September of 1998 and referenced her in the September 23rd issue of her nationally syndicated column, *Talking it Over*.

Joy credits the California Youth Connection (CYC) with broadening her perspective on the wide range of experiences foster youth have within the system. CYC also made her acutely aware of how state and national policies have a profound impact on children's everyday lives.

Contact: Joy Warren (203) 785-8075

TERRI FAYE YADEN, 21
Vienna, VA

Terri was 10 years old when she and her sister were sent to Cookson Hills, a Christian orphanage on the border of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Terri cultivated many interests while at Cookson Hills, including public speaking, sign language, sports, and a commitment to public service. Terri traveled across the United States representing Cookson Hills to its financial supporters, particularly Baptist congregations. Terri is now a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Early Education. In her sophomore year, Terri organized a sign language club, which taught hearing students to sign so they could perform volunteer work within the deaf community. Terri is a three time Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) scholarship recipient and has participated in a foster youth teen leadership program called the OLIVER Project. She has represented the OFA and spoken out on foster care issues in a wide variety of forums.

The Orphan Foundation of America provides college scholarships to older youth in foster care and those who have already left. In addition to receiving scholarship money, recipients are given the opportunity to participate in a summer leadership program in Washington D.C. which exposes foster care youth to legislators and gives them a chance to share their experiences while learning how policy is made.

Contact: Eileen McCaffrey, Orphan Foundation of America (703) 281-4226

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

January 29, 1999

Today's announcement builds on a deep commitment by the President, the First Lady, and the Administration to facilitate adoptions and improve the child welfare system. Since taking office, President Clinton has championed efforts to make foster care work better for the children it serves, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down financial, racial, geographic and bureaucratic barriers to adoption:

- ✓ **Achieving Landmark Legislative Reform.** On November 19, 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, reforming our nation's child welfare system and making it clear that the health and safety of children must be the paramount concerns of state child welfare services. This landmark legislation was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton Administration's *Adoption 2002* report, which the President requested by executive memorandum on December 14, 1996, to meet his goals of doubling adoptions and permanent placements by the year 2002 and moving children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes. The Act tightened time frames for making permanent placement decisions for children and ensured health insurance coverage for all special needs children in subsidized adoptions. Also, it created new financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, and continued funding for services to keep families together when it is appropriate and safe.
- ✓ **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, President Clinton ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit.
- ✓ **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** To test innovative strategies to improve state child welfare systems, the Clinton Administration has granted waivers to 18 states, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided states with enhanced technical support and helped improve court operations. The President secured \$20 million in FY 1999 in new funds to support state efforts to implement the new adoption law. In addition, through the Adoption Opportunities program, the President has supported state and local innovative demonstration projects to promote adoption, provide post-adoptive services, and build new public-private partnerships. To prevent children from entering foster care in the first place, in 1993 the Clinton Administration enacted and secured federal funding for the Family Preservation and Support Program (renamed in 1997 the Preserving Safe and Stable Families Program) to help states, local governments, and service providers develop effective programs to serve children and families at risk.
- ✓ **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November, 1998, the President issued a new directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet

as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. Effective use of the Internet will help to meet the President's goal of doubling, by the year 2002, adoptions and other permanent placements from the public child welfare system.

✓ **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994.

✓ **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, enabling parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform legislation signed by the President maintained the guarantee of child protection and adoption, and did not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, and foster care and adoption services.

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1998, AND THEREAFTER

I met the most extraordinary young woman last week. Joy Warren had just begun her first week at Yale Law School. But what's remarkable is that Joy grew up in foster care, and like more than 20,000 foster-care children each year, she "aged out" of the system when she turned 18.

This means Joy has been entirely on her own, without the traditional support system so many families provide, for the past seven years -- years in which she managed to receive a college degree, work as an advocate to improve foster care and begin law school.

Children who grow up in foster care face many of the same challenges as other children and have many of the same needs. But they also have special challenges that demand special attention -- and too often they just don't get it.

One 13-year-old foster child told me what she wants most: "I want a place that I can call home; a room that I can call my room; a family that I can love and would love me back." Is this too much to ask?

Although my own mother was never in formal foster care, her teen parents were unable to care for her when she was born. They sent her to live with her grandparents, but when that didn't work out, she went to live in the home of a family where she helped take care of the children for room and board.

My mother has often told me how grateful she is to the woman with whom she lived because she got to see what a real family was like. She watched what happens inside a home where parents and children go through all they should go through as a family. And she wanted to pass that opportunity on.

When I was growing up, she invited young women from a group home to come and work for us, spending time with our family, much as my mother had done so many years before.

I'm proud that this Administration has cared enough to improve and reform our nation's foster-care system, including passing the Family and Medical Leave Act, which gives time off for parents to adopt a child. Tax credits are now available for families who adopt, and foster care and adoption have been freed from discrimination and delays based on race, culture and ethnicity.

I was especially proud when, last year, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, a historic step toward improving the lives of children in

foster care. The aim of this bill is to place this country's 500,000 foster-care children in safe, stable, loving and permanent homes. And it will help us meet our national goal of doubling the nation's annual adoption rate.

But, as important as this bill is, it doesn't address all the needs of the children who "age out" of the system each year and who, like Joy Warren, have to make the tough transition to living on their own.

Last year, at a roundtable in Berkeley, Calif., I spent an afternoon listening to young people describe the challenges of leaving the foster-care system. A disproportionate number are homeless and have trouble finishing school, finding jobs and receiving adequate health care. And, often, they don't get the life skills they need to survive in today's world.

There are many programs that work, several of which exist as a result of the advocacy and leadership of former foster kids like Joy. One national conference, Destination Future, where I met Joy last week, brings together older foster children and homeless young people to teach them life skills and advocacy techniques. Programs in Texas and Florida provide college-tuition assistance for young people in foster care. In Los Angeles County, set-aside entry-level jobs are available for young people aging out of foster care. Massachusetts has a teen parent transitional living program. And the California Youth Connection has become a national model of how to bring young foster teens together to form a network of support and advocacy.

One of the most critical challenges remaining is to make sure that children who age out of foster care gain access to health care. It is outrageous that these young people should find themselves among the uninsured. Some states are addressing this issue, but there is still far to go.

We must also strengthen the Federal Independent Living Program, which provides 85,000 young people critical assistance in their transition to independent living, helps them earn their high school diplomas and offers access to vocational training.

Federal legislation and state programs have put us on the right track. But we must do better. Now is the time to make sure that the 20,000 young people who each year become too old to remain in foster care receive the help they need to become independent and productive members of society.

To find out more about Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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President's List

FOSTER CARE CEREMONY - Friday JAN 29 1999 - 3:00 PM White House - Business - East Visitors Entrance

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THE FIRST LADY

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
REPORT TIME: 4:19 PM

Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Mary Lee Allen**
Director of Child Welfare and Mental Health Division, Children's Defense Fund
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Maureen Andrews**
Vocational Consultant, The Casey Family Program - Tucson Division
Tucson, AZ
- A **Ms. Dorothy Ansell**
Ansell and Associates
Tampa, FL
- A **Mr. James D. Clark (Substitute for: Robert Arnold)**
- A **Dr. Bernard Arons**
Center for Mental Health Services
- A **Dr. Wendy Auslander**
George Warren Brown School of Social Work
Saint Louis, MO
- A **Dr. Amy Baker**
Director of Research, Children's Village
Dobbs Ferry, NY
- A **Ms. Susan Bales**
Benton Foundations
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Cindy Seasler Ballard**
Director, Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth
Kansas City, MO
- A **Ms. Kathy Barbell**
Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Kimberly Barnes-O'Connor**
Committee on Labor, Majority, U.S. Senate
- A **Dr. Richard P. Barth**
Frank A. Daniels Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
- Ms. Kerry Bennedeto**
Human Resources Manager, United Parcel Service
Atlanta, GA
- Ms. Joan Berger**
Manager of Community Relations, Campbell Soup Company
Camden, NJ
- A **Mr. Steve Bewsey**
Life Works
Austin, TX

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Mary Bourdette**
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, US Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC

- A **Mrs. Judith Brotman**
Director of Government Relations, School Social Work Association
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Betty Juan Brown**
President, Foster Parent Association
Baltimore, MD

- Ms. Ruth Goreber (Substitute for: Cindy Brown)**

- A **Ms. Judith Ann Butler**
Executive Director, Americans United to Save the Arts and Humanities
Washington, DC
Guest: Mr. Edwin Rothschild

- A **Ms. Donna Butts**
Executive Director, Generations United
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Michele Cahill**
Vice President, Youth Development Institute
New York, NY

- A **Ms. Julia Larson Calhoun**
Laurel Foundation
Seattle, WA

- A **Ms. Analeah Charles**

- Hon. Barbara Chow**
Associate Director of Human Resources, Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Barbara Clark**
Staff, Department of Health & Human Services

- A **Mr. Phillip Coltoff**
Executive Director, Children's Aid Society
New York, NY

- A **Ms. Ronna Joy Cook**
Senior Study Director, Westat, Inc.
Rockville, MD

- A **Dr. Mark Courtney**
School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

- A **Ms. Beverly Hardy (Substitute for: Gloria Cousar)**

- A **Mr. James Knapp (Substitute for: Terry Cross)**

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Dr. Patrick Curtis**
Director of Research and Evaluation, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Ellen Margaret Dahl**
Special Assistant, Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC

- A **Mr. Howard Davidson**
Director, Center for Children & the Law
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Dixie Jo Van de Flier Davis**
The Adoption Exchange
Aurora, CO

- A **Ms. Cynthia Leigh Diehm**
Director, National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth
Silver Spring, MD

- A **Mr. Peter Digre**
Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services
Los Angeles, CA

- A **Ms. Margaret Duarte**

- A **Dr. Diana English**
Research Director, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Seattle, WA

- A **Ms. Heitzi Epstein**
Child Welfare Project Director, National Association of Child Advocates
Washington, DC

- A **Mr. Frank Farrow**
Director, Children's Services Policy
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Laura Feig**
Staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

- A **Mr. Jim Fenton**

- A **Ms. Laura Fieg**

- A **Mr. Richard Ford**
President, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA

- A **Mr. Joseph Forsyth**
Guest: Ms. Dorothy Forsyth

- A **Ms. Robin L. Freedman**
Director of Communications, Casey Family Program

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Mary Furnas**
Independent Living Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Social Services
Lincoln, ME

- A **Mr. Kevin Garvey**
Training Development Manager, United Parcel Service
Laurel, MD

- A **Mr. Robert K. Reeg (Substitute for: Mary Gleason)**

- A **Hon. Olivia A. Golden**
Assistant Secretary for Children & Families, Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC

- A **Mr. William Gorham**
President, Urban Institute
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Karolyn R. Gould**
Executive Director, South Bronx Human Development Organization
New York, NY

- A **Hon. Ernestine Gray**
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
New Orleans, LA

- A **Dr. Tom Grayson**
Director, Transition Research Institute, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana
Champaign, IL

- A **Mr. Anthony Thomas Grazio**
Director, Maryland Department of Human Resources
Baltimore, MD

- A **Ms. Sarah Greenbelt**
Director, National Resource Center for Permanency Planning
New York, NY

- A **Mr. Thomas Vincent Griffith**
Director, Living Classrooms Foundation
Baltimore, MD

- A **Mr. John Moses Gutierrez**
Guest: Ms. Clare Faulkner

- A **Mr. Nick Gwyn**

- A **Mr. Terry Hall**

- A **Ms. Marva Livingston Hammonds**
Director, Michigan Family Independence Agency
Lansing, MI

- A **Ms. Lynn Harman**
Fund Raiser, Children's Aid Society

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Terry Harrack**
- A **Mr. Lorenzo Harrison**
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Cheryl Hayes**
Executive Director, Finance Project
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Shirley Hedges**
President, National Foster Parent Association
Madisonville, KY
- A **Mr. Gay Elonor Couiter (Substitute for: Jann Heffner)**
- A **Ms. Ashley Marie Rhodes-Couiter (Substitute's Guest: Jann Heffner)**
- A **Ms. Talmira Hill**
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- A **Mr. James Hine**
Executive Director, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
Austin, TX
- A **Ms. Della M. Hughes**
Executive Director, National Network of Runaway & Youth Services
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Lupe Humphrey**
Independent Living Coordinator, California Department of Social Services
Sacramento, CA
- A **Dr. Vera Jackson**
Chief Executive Officer, Residential Youth Services
Alexandria, VA
- Ms. Lyn Jennings**
Department of Labor
Washington, DC
- A **Dr. David Richard Johnson**
Director, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
- A **Ms. Nancy Johnson**
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family Services
Pittsburgh, PA
- A **Ms. Pam Johnson**
Deputy Associate Commissioner, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC
- A **Dr. Elizabeth Jones**
Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine
Portland, ME

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Ernestine F. Jones**
General Receiver, Child and Family Services
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. Fred Karnas**
Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Janet Knipe**
Statewide Coordinator, California Youth Connection
San Fransico, CA
- A **Mr. Mark Kroner**
Program Director, Lighthouse Youth Services
Cincinnati, OH
- A **Ms. Patricia Letke-Alexander**
- A **Ms. Lisa Levin**
Cherry Hill, NJ
- A **Judge Jewelle Dean Lewis-Lohman**
Spotsylvania Juvenile Court
Spotsylvania, VA
- A **Mr. David Liederman**
Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. Jay Lindgren**
Executive Director, Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
Providence, RI
- A **Ms. Janet Legler Luft**
Independent Living Coordinator, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
Austin, TX
- A **Dr. Gerold Mallon**
Associate Executive Director, NYC Program, Green Chimney's Childeren's Services
New York, NY
- A **Ms. Ruth Massinga**
The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- A **Mr. Richard Matt**
Deputy Director, Missouri Department of Family Services
Jefferson City, MO
- A **Mr. John Mattingly**
Senior Associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- A **Ms. Leah McBride**
- A **Ms. Eileen McCaffrey**
Orphan Foundation of America
Vienna, VA

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Kerry McCallum**
Community Relations Manager, United Parcel Service
- A **Hon. Frank Scott McCown**
District Judge, 345th District Court
Austin, TX
- A **Sister Mary Rose McGeady**
President & CEO, Covenant House
New York, NY
- Mr. Matthew McKearn**
- A **Ms. Maureen McLaughlin**
- A **Dr. Edmund Mech**
University of Illinois-Urbana/Campaign
Urbana, IL
- Ms. Mary Mentaberry**
Project Director, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Reno, NV
- A **Ms. Endolyn Merritt**
- A **Ms. Maureen T. Messenger**
Associate Director of Adolescent Services, Massachusetts Department of Social Work
- A **Ms. Patricia Montoya**
Southwest Director, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Dallas, TX
- A **Ms. Joan Morgan**
Executive Director, New Yorkers for Children
New York, NY
- A **Mr. Thomas D. Morton**
President and Chief Executive Officer, Child Welfare Institute
Atlanta, GA
- A **Ms. Leonora Mullane**
Director of Communications, Casey Family Services
- A **Mr. Richard Murphy**
Director, National Center for Youth Development
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Danielle Nabinger**
National Association of Court Appointed Special Advocates
Atlanta, GA
- A **Mr. Robin Elizabeth Hartman Nixon**
Director of Youth Services, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Susan Notkin**
Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
New York, NY

- A **Dr. Michael Olenick**
Vice President, Youth Services Division, Community College Foundation
Sherman Oaks, CA

- A **Ms. Rosalyn Oreskovich**
Assistant Secretary, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Olympia, WA

- A **Mr. Patrick Patrong**
Independent Living Coordinator, Maryland Department of Human Resources
Baltimore, MD

- A **Mr. Alfred Gene Perez**
California Youth Connection
San Francisco, CA

- A **Dr.. William Pierce**
President, National Council for Adoption
Washington, DC
Guest: Ms. Susan Medalie

- A **Mr. Michael Piraino**
National Court Appointed Special Advocate Associaton
Seattle, WA

- A **Ms. Karabelle Pizzigati**
Director of Public Policy, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

- A **Mr. Anthony Podesta**
President, Podesta Associates, Inc.
Washington, DC

- A **Mr. Gordon Alfred Raley**
President/CEO, National Assembly of Health and Human Services Organization
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Lurene Reynolds**
Program Officer, Stuart Foundation
San Francisco, CA

- A **Mr. Robert Robertson**
Associate Executive Director, Valley Youth House
Allentown, PA

- A **Ms. Miriam Rollin**
Director of Advocacy, National Network for Youth
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Nan Roman**
Vice President, National Alliance to End Homelessness

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Betsey Rosenbaum**
American Public Human Services Association
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Laurie Rubiner**
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

- A **Mrs. Carmen Schulze**
Director, Missouri Department of Social Services
Jefferson City, MO

- A **Mr. Nicholas Scoppetta**
Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services
New York, NY

- A **Ms. Ann Segal**
Deputy to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC

- A **Hon. Donna E. Shalala**
Secretary of Health & Human Services, Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Carol Shauffer**
Staff Attorney, Youth Law Center
San Francisco, CA

- A **Mr. Rico Shaw**

- A **Mr. Ralph Smith**
Vice President, Annie Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD

- A **Mr. Mark I. Soler**
Executive Director, Youth Law Center
Washington, D.C.

- A **Mr. Matthew Ward Stagner**
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC

- Ms. Patricia H. Stell**
Seattle, WA

- A **Ms. Carol Stevenson**
Director of Research and Grants, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Los Altos, CA

- A **Ms. Jane Talley**
Washington, DC

- A **Ms. Tess Thomas**
Seattle, WA

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Teresa Tod**
Director, Texas Network of Youth Services
Austin, TX
- A **Mr. Raymond Torres**
Executive Director, Casey Family Services
Shelton, CT
- A **Mr. Steven Trippe**
New Ways Workers
San Fransico, CA
- A **Dr. Charles Lynn Usher**
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
- A **Ms. Cynthia Walker**
Federal Independent Living Coordinator, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. James Walker**
Director, National Resource Center for Youth Services
Tulsa, OK
- A **Ms. Joy Warren**
California Youth Connection
San Francisco, CA
- A **Mr. Hugh Weathers**
Coordinator, Environmental Justice, International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Laura Weir**
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Susan Weiss**
Director of Advocacy, The Casey Family Foundation
Seattle, WA
- A **Mr. Stanley Wellborn**
Director, External Affairs, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- A **Ms. Carol Williams**
Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Gina E. Wood**
Department of Justice
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Terri Faye Yaden**
- A **Hon. Kenneth W. Kizer (Substitute for: Gary Yates)**
Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC

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Accepts and No Responses

A **Mr. Martin Zanghi**
Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine
Portland, ME

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Regrets

- R **Ms. Bonnie Armstrong**
Consultant
Pasadena, CA
- R **Mr. Robert Arnold**
National Independent Living Association
Jacksonville, FL
- R **Ms. Jane Austin**
Social Worker, The Casey Family Program - San Diego Division
San Diego, CA
- R **Ms. Leigh Barr**
Case Assistant, The Casey Family Program - Phoenix Division
Phoenix, AZ
- R **Dr. Peter Benson**
President, Search Institute
Minneapolis, MN
- R **Mr. Douglas Besharov**
Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Shay Bilchik**
Administrator, U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Raymond Bramucci**
Assistant Secretary - Designate for Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, DC
- R **Ms. Cindy Brown**
Director of Resource Center on Educational Equity, Council of Chief of State School Offices
Washington, DC
- R **Ms. Lucy Carter**
Program Officer, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Los Altos, CA
- R **Mr. Peter Correia**
Associate Director, National Resource Center for Youth Services
Tulsa, OK
- R **Ms. Gloria J. Cousar**
Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Terry Cross**
National Indian Child Welfare
Portland, OR
- R **Ms. Christine M. DeVita**
President, DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund
New York, NY
- R **Mrs. Margaret Dunkle**
Director, Institute for Educational Leadership
Washington, DC

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Regrets

- R **Mr. Glenn Eagleson**
New Ways Workers
San Fransico, CA
- R **Mrs. Susan M. Eggleston**
Executive Director, Our Town Family Center
- R **Mr. John Emerson**
Director of Education, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Hon. Richard Fitzgerald**
Chief Justice, Jefferson Family Court
- R **Mr. James Gann**
General Manager, Red Lobster
Norman, OK
- R **Ms. Mary Ann Gleason**
Interim Director, National Coalition for the Homeless
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Peter Goldberg**
President, Alliance for Children and Families
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Craig Gordon**
Director, Communities for People
Providence, RI
- R **Ms. Carol Goss**
Program Officer, The Skillman Foundation
Detriot, MI
- R **Hon. Richard Guy**
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
Olympia, WA
- R **Ms. Ethel Harris**
Division Director, The Casey Family Program - Baton Rouge Division
Baton Rouge, LA
- R **Ms. Deborah Hayes**
Youth Advocacy Center
New York, NY
- R **Ms. Jann Heffner**
Executive Director, The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Dublin, OH
- R **Mr. Louis Henderson**
National Association of Former Foster Care Children of America
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Cornelius Hogan**
Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services
Waterbury, VT

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Regrets

- R **Mr. Michael Horn**
Research Assistant, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Ms. Deborah R. Jospin**
Director, AmeriCorps
Washington, DC
- R **Dr. Carol Kamin**
Executive Director, Children's Action Alliance
Phoenix, AZ
- R **Mrs. Courtney Kardo**
Public Relations, IKEA North America
Plymouth Meeting, PA
- R **Mr. Ronald Kessler**
Professor, Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA
- R **Ms. Kathy Kingery**
Advocacy Specialist, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Ms. Sue Krahe**
Executive Director, Our Town Family Services
Tucson, AZ
- R **Mr. Joseph Kroll**
Executive Director, North American Council on Adoptable Children
St. Paul, MN
- R **Ms. Gilda Lambert**
Department of Health and Human Services
- R **Mr. Terry Lewis**
Washington, DC
- R **Dr. Herbert London**
President, Hudson Institute
Indianapolis, IN
- R **Ms. Jean McIntosh**
Chief of Strategic Planning, The Casey Family Foundation
Seattle, WA
- R **Hon. Richard P. Nathan**
Director, Rockefeller Institute
Albany, NY
- R **Mr. Brent Neiser**
Director of Collaborative Programs, National Endowment for Financial Education
Denver, CO
- R **Mr. Douglas Nelson**
President, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD

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Regrets

- R **Mr. Kent C. Nelson**
Chairman and CEO, United Parcel Service
Atlanta, GA
- R **Dr. Kim Nollan**
Research Specialist, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Ms. Patricia O'Neal-Williams**
National One Church, One Child, Inc
Tallahassee, FL
- R **Dr. Peter Pecora**
Manager of Research, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Mr. Michael Pesce**
Division Director, The Casey Family Program - Tucson Division
Tucson, AZ
- R **Ms. Sharon Pierce**
President and Chief Executive Officer, The Villages of Indiana
Indianapolis, IN
- R **Mr. Harvey Price**
Interim President, Weingart Foundation
Los Angeles, CA
- R **Ms. Jane Bryant Quinn**
Executive Director, DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund
New York, NY
- R **Dr. Harold A. Richman**
Director, Chapin Hall Center for Children
Chicago, IL
- R **Mrs. Nancy Daly Riordan**
The Nancy Daly Foundation
Los Angeles, CA
- R **Mr. Ralph Rogers**
Tex Industries, Inc.
Dallas, TX
- R **Ms. Sandra Rudnick**
Chairman of the Board, United Friends of Children
Culver City, CA
- R **Ms. Teresa Scannell**
Corporation for National Service
- R **Hon. John Specia**
Bexar County Courthouse
San Antonio, TX
- R **Ms. Donna Stark**
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
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Regrets

- R **Ms. Pam Stevens**
Youth Development Program Director, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
New York, NY

- R **Mr. Gary Strangler**
Director, Missouri Department of Social Services
Jefferson City, MO

- R **Mr. Dave Thomas**
Dave Thomas Foundation
Dublin, OH

- R **Ms. Paula Van Ness**
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
Washington, DC

- R **Mr. William Waldman**
Executive Director, American Public Human Services Association
Washington, DC

- R **Mr. Gary Walker**
President, Pulbic/Private Ventures
Philadelphia, PA

- R **Dr. Valora Washington**
Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Battle Creek, MI

- R **Ms. Kathryn Way**

- R **Dr. Lois Wright**
Assistant Dean, Center for Child and Family Studies
Columbia, SC

- R **Mr. Gary Yates**
President and CEO, The California Wellness Foundation
Woodland Hills, CA

- R **Ms. Lorraine Zippiroli**
Program Director, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Los Altos, CA

- R **Mr. Alan Zuckerman**
Executive Director, National Youth Employment Coalition

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TOTAL COUNTS

Number of Accepts:	153
Number of Regrets:	72
Number of No Responses:	8
Number of Unknown Guests:	0
Number of Expected Attendees:	161

FOSTER CARE TRANSITIONING EVENT REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

The White House
East Room
January 29, 1999

(First part of speech was cut off. The following remarks are similar to her speech as delivered, but may not be exact. Please do not quote from this section.)

I am delighted to welcome all of you to the White House. I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator Jeffords who has worked tirelessly to give all children safe places to go after school and something in life to say "yes" to.

I also want to thank Secretary Shalala for that introduction and for her extraordinary leadership on behalf of all children, especially those too often forgotten. She reminded us of how far we've come in reforming our child welfare system. And we should all be proud of those accomplishments. But today we are also gathered to talk about an issue that hasn't received the attention it deserves.

We know that we must do better by the nearly 20,000 young people who, every year, are forced to leave foster care and make it on their own. So today, I have come here to announce that the President's budget will help ensure that the end of foster care will no longer mean the end of caring for the young people it serves.

None of this would have been possible without the people in this room.

It wouldn't have been possible without my friend Tipper Gore, whose compassion and commitment have placed a national spotlight on mental illness and homelessness. Again, it wouldn't have been possible without Secretary Shalala and her staff at the Department of Health and Human Services.

It wouldn't have been possible without Terry Harrak, John Gutierrez and the other young people who walked in with Tipper and me just now. The courageous voices they have raised have educated the nation about this issue and inspired us all.

And it wouldn't have been possible without all of you who have been their biggest champions. I especially want to thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Child Welfare League of America, and the Casey Family Program for their deep commitment and for helping to pull this event together.

As I look across this room, it is wonderful to see researchers, advocates, and community providers from all over the country. I don't think we've ever been privileged to host at the White House a group of people who have fought harder or longer to lift up the lives of former foster children. And all of us owe you a debt of gratitude for that.

In some ways, my own experiences with this issue started when I was a little girl. I'd ask my mother, as all children do, what it was like for her to grow up. She was never in formal foster care. But she told me about how her teen parents couldn't take care of her after she was born. How they sent her to live with her grandparents. And how, when that didn't work out, she moved in with a family and took care of their children in exchange for room and board.

My mother has often told me how grateful she is to the woman she moved in with. Because she was able to see what a real family is like. She watched what happens inside a home

when children have someone to praise them when they succeed and pick them up when they fall. Someone who cares what happens to them day after day. Someone to simply love them.

Most of us remember looking forward to celebrating our 18th birthdays -- and not just because of the party. It meant we could vote. It meant we could go away to college or get a job. It meant we were becoming adults. But it didn't mean we were on our own.

But, if you ask the young people here -- or others who have aged out of foster care -- many will tell you that their 18th birthday was the start of a very tough road alone. We know young people who age out of foster care are more likely to drop out of school, land in a homeless shelter, be unemployed, come down with health problems, or have trouble getting health care.

And we know that these young people often carry with them traumatic experience of abuse and neglect, experiences of being shuffled from home to home.

More powerful than any statistic, I hope that every single elected official and every single American hears the stories of the young people here today and their peers across the country. Because there are no more powerful advocates or educators.

I hope they hear the voices of the young people here from cities such as Tucson, San Francisco and Alexandria. They carry with them stories of being homeless while trying to finish school. They come here with gratitude for all of those who reached down to lift them up. And now many are helping others to do the same.

Whenever someone wants to know why we must do more for young people aging out of foster care, I hope they'll hear the voices of Alfred Perez -- who is here -- and others active in the California Youth Connection, an extraordinary group of young men and women I had the privilege to visit with just over a year ago in Berkeley.

It was right before Thanksgiving. And, one by one, they described what it was like to leave the foster care system. One 19-year-old confessed that it was her first Thanksgiving by herself -- and she didn't have anyone to call to ask how to bake a turkey. And a young man in college talked about what how it feels when the dorms close down, when other students pack up to go home for the holidays and you have absolutely no where to go.

(The following remarks represent Mrs. Clinton's speech as delivered.)

I hope that everyone who wonders why we need to do more for young people leaving foster care will hear the voices of people like Joy Warren, who is here with us today. Joy is in her first year at Yale Law School, my alma mater. Unlike most of the other students there, she spent her childhood in foster care, and she has been entirely on her own since age 18. For seven years, she has lived without the support that permanent families provide...and all the while, she managed to receive a college degree, work as an advocate to improve foster care, and begin law school.

I met Joy in September at a conference called Destination Future, in which current and former foster children and homeless youth came together to talk about and learn about life skills and what they could do to help others overcome the obstacles they face every day. I've just received the report from the Conference, and it contains important messages for all of us. We need more awareness about this issue. Young people aging out of foster care need medical insurance. They need training and education. And that can only happen if we make greater investments in their lives.

Now, we know that there are countless people working in states, counties, and communities to meet those challenges -- many in this room are working to do just that.

There are programs in Texas and Florida, for example, that provide college tuition to state schools for young people in foster care who are accepted. In Los Angeles County, entry-level jobs are set aside for young people aging out of the foster care system. And like other Independent Living Programs, New York's is helping young people aging out of foster care with school, jobs, housing and the other tools that they need. One of those young people, Analeah Charles, is here with us today.

We should take these success stories and make sure they are replicated throughout our country. That's why I am so pleased to announce that the President's budget over the next five years will include \$280 million to help former foster children make the transition to independence -- and make the most of their lives.

We will be increasing funding for the Independent Living Program by 50 percent -- and giving foster children more help finishing high school, getting a job, and finding a place to live.

Now in many states and communities, the rule about aging out of foster care is whether you turn 18 or graduate from high school -- whichever happens first. So there are many children who are out of foster care even though they have not yet finished high school.

We will also be offering \$50 million in new competitive grants so that the states can continue to provide economic support to former foster children living through their transition.

We want to help more community-based programs that are giving homeless youth places to live and skills to build their futures. And I am pleased to announce that we are increasing funding for the Transitional Living Program by 33 percent.

And finally, the President's budget says that young people who age out of foster care should be eligible for Medicaid until they are 21. For too many young people, foster care means insurance -- and when they leave, they lose their Medicaid coverage.

In this country, I believe no person should be in the ranks of the uninsured -- but I certainly think no young person should be uninsured.

Now when we do all of this -- which I hope we certainly will in a bipartisan way, bringing new leaders of both political parties and our Congress together, and with the support of all of you throughout our nation who are advocates and workers in the field of foster care -- we will have a lot to celebrate. But the main reason I believe we will achieve what I hope we can with the President's leadership will be because of the courageous young people who are with us today who represent thousands and thousands of other young people across our country.

It will be because of young people such as Terry Harrak. When she turned 18, she was a senior in high school. But she soon found herself without foster care, without a job, without a place to call home. Night after night, she slept over at teachers' and friends' homes, she slept in metro terminals, she slept in hospital emergency rooms. Day after day, she would wake up and continue going to school. And she graduated.

Now I think that the story Terry has to tell us should be heard by everyone. She is now a participant in the Living Independently for Tomorrow Program in Alexandria, Virginia. She has a place to live, a job and community college to attend, and people to guide and support her. She is here with us today. It is my great honor to introduce Terry Harrak.

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View Related Topics

January 29, 1999, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 585 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Proposes \$280 Million In Aid for Former Foster Children

BYLINE: Barbara Vobejda, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

President Clinton has included \$ 280 million in his next federal budget to help teenagers who are pushed out of the nation's **foster care** system simply because they hit their 18th birthday.

The program, to be announced today by first lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton**, would fund state programs that work with teenagers as they leave **foster care** by providing training, health insurance, limited financial help and housing to help them live on their own.

Roughly 20,000 children are moved out of **foster care** each year at age 18, often without families or relatives to provide a home or financial support. While a fraction remain with foster families, most must fend for themselves because the state and federal funding that has supported them ends by law when they turn 18.

That means they must find a job and a place to live, sometimes before they have finished high school.

"We need to do much more to help young people who have spent their whole lives in **foster care** make it on their own," said Bruce Reed, White House domestic policy adviser.

A Washington Post report last year drew attention to the plight of these young people, a quarter of whom spend at least some time homeless after they are "emancipated" from the foster system, the bureaucratic label for the process. Studies by University of Wisconsin researcher Mark Courtney found that 12 to 18 months after they left **foster care**, just half of the ex-foster children were employed, one-third were on welfare, one-fifth of the girls had given birth and more than one-quarter of the boys had been imprisoned.

"We're very pleased the president has supported this underserved population," said Robin Nixon, director of youth services for the Child Welfare League of America. She said her organization and others would push for even broader legislation -- extending the **foster care** entitlement to age 21, a change that would cost \$ 500 million over five years.

But while congressional Republicans had signaled their support for the president's initiative, she said, it would be more difficult to secure approval for extending an entitlement, which guarantees funding to any eligible child.

The president's proposal would increase federal spending for the first time since 1992 for the Independent Living Program, a state-run program that encourages young people to finish high school and get training and teaches them how to budget, find apartments and plan for careers. That effort would receive \$ 175 million over five years.

The budget also includes \$ 50 million over four years to provide financial support for housing and other

needs while the youths finish education or training they need to find jobs. It adds \$ 50 million over five years to allow former foster children to receive Medicaid until they are 21.

And it includes \$ 25 million over five years to provide housing and training to homeless adolescents between the ages of 16 to 21.

Congress created the Independent Living Program in 1986 after researchers noticed that many of the nation's homeless were former foster children. The funding for that program now stands at \$ 70 million a year, a figure that was based on the **foster care** population in the mid-1980s. Since then, the number of children in the system has more than doubled, to about 500,000.

In some states, the programs amount to short seminars on how to budget and find a job. In other programs, young people are placed in subsidized apartments and given job training and entry-level work.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 1999

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;foster care and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

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January 29, 1999; Friday 18:03 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 447 words

HEADLINE: First Lady Pushes **Foster Care** Funds

BYLINE: KEVIN GALVIN

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Hoping to ease the transition to independence for the 20,000 children who move out of **foster care** each year, **Hillary Rodham Clinton** announced \$280 million in proposed programs to help them obtain insurance, get jobs, and finish their high school diplomas.

"When a child goes into **foster care**, in a very real sense, we are all that child's family," Mrs. Clinton said Friday. "And we haven't been as loving and concerned a family for our children in **foster care** as we should be."

Mrs. Clinton, accompanied by Tipper Gore and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, made the announcement before a group of former foster children and advocates.

The goal of the proposals, which will be included in the fiscal 2000 budget the president sends to Congress on Monday, is to make sure foster children don't find themselves without a safety net just because they turn 18.

"This is one of those problems that can be solved," Mrs. Clinton said.

The proposals would increase by 50 percent the federal Independent Living Program, which helps older foster children earn high school diplomas and learn such daily living skills as planning a budget and securing housing. Its budget has been frozen at \$70 million since 1992.

It also would provide health insurance to foster children, who often lose coverage when they move out of the system.

"For too many people, **foster care** means insurance, and when they leave they lose their Medicare coverage," Mrs. Clinton said.

Also Friday, President Clinton said he would seek a \$2.5 billion spending increase for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"The present prosperity is an opportunity and a responsibility to make sure that opportunity and prosperity reaches every person, into every corner of this country, into every neighborhood in every city of this country," Clinton told a gathering of the nation's mayors at the White House.

"If we cannot do this now with what some people believe is the strongest overall economy in our history, believe me, we will never get around to doing the job," he said.

His proposal would include money to increase affordable housing, housing vouchers for needy residents in distressed areas and \$150 million for newly designated economic empowerment zones. Another highlight was the initiative he announced earlier this month to encourage Wall Street to invest in

underserved inner-city and rural communities.

That plan includes a \$1 billion tax credit designed to spur \$6 billion in new equity capital for investment in the targeted markets and the creation of private investment partnerships, patterned after the Overseas Private Investment Corp.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 1999

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Search: General News;foster care and hillary w/2 clinton

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M2 PRESSWIRE

February 2, 1999

LENGTH: 1303 words

HEADLINE: THE WHITE HOUSE

First Lady announces new efforts to support transitioning **foster care youth**

BODY:

Today at the White House, First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, accompanied by Mrs. Tipper Gore and Secretary Donna Shalala, announces that the President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years in new support for young people who leave our nation's public foster care system at age 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship.

Foster Care Youth Reaching Adulthood Face Tough Challenges. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. Today, federal financial support for these young people ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth are not adequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting.

New Support For Youth Leaving Foster Care. The President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years to provide a framework for enhanced federal support to these young people:

Increasing the Federal Independent Living Program by 50 Percent. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children to prepare for independence by helping them to earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Since 1992, the program's funding has been frozen at \$70 million. The President's budget will increase the program by 50 percent, investing \$175 million over five years in these services.

Offering Time Limited Economic Support. Young people often transition from foster care with no economic support. The President's budget will include \$50 million over four years to create new competitive grants to States to complement the Independent Living program services by providing time-limited financial support for these young people as they develop the skills and education needed to move into the workforce. **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The President's budget will propose that these young people remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. His budget will include \$50 million over five years for this purpose.

Increasing the Transitional Living Program. The President's budget will include a 33 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides competitive funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents, ages 16-21. The program is currently funded at \$15 million; the President's budget will increase that funding by \$5 million for FY 2000.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

Today's announcement builds on a deep commitment by the President, the First Lady, and the Administration to facilitate adoptions and improve the child welfare system. Since taking office,

President Clinton has championed efforts to make foster care work better for the children it serves, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down financial, racial, geographic and bureaucratic barriers to adoption:

- **Achieving Landmark Legislative Reform.** On November 19, 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, reforming our nation's child welfare system and making it clear that the health and safety of children must be the paramount concerns of state child welfare services. This landmark legislation was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton Administration's Adoption 2002 report, which the President requested by executive memorandum on December 14, 1996, to meet his goals of doubling adoptions and permanent placements by the year 2002 and moving children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes. The Act tightened time frames for making permanent placement decisions for children and ensured health insurance coverage for all special needs children in subsidized adoptions. Also, it created new financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, and continued funding for services to keep families together when it is appropriate and safe.
- **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, President Clinton ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** To test innovative strategies to improve state child welfare systems, the Clinton Administration has granted waivers to 18 states, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided states with enhanced technical support and helped improve court operations. The President secured \$20 million in FY 1999 in new funds to support state efforts to implement the new adoption law. In addition, through the Adoption Opportunities program, the President has supported state and local innovative demonstration projects to promote adoption, provide post-adoptive services, and build new public-private partnerships. To prevent children from entering foster care in the first place, in 1993 the Clinton Administration enacted and secured federal funding for the Family Preservation and Support Program (renamed in 1997 the Preserving Safe and Stable Families Program) to help states, local governments, and service providers develop effective programs to serve children and families at risk.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November, 1998, the President issued a new directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. Effective use of the Internet will help to meet the President's goal of doubling, by the year 2002, adoptions and other permanent placements from the public child welfare system.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994.
- **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, enabling parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform legislation signed by the President maintained the guarantee of child protection and adoption, and did not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, and foster care and adoption services.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: February 3, 1999

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1999, AND THEREAFTER

News that the President's budget for the year 2000 is 2,592 pages long is enough to make most people's eyes glaze over. No matter how complicated it may appear, though, it provides a critical blueprint for the future, laying out his priorities for the country in the starkest of terms -- numbers that add up to a balanced budget.

Six years ago, when my husband took office, analysts projected a \$404 billion deficit for fiscal year 2000. Instead, thanks to fiscal responsibility, strategic investments, the hard work of millions of Americans and the President's leadership, we now anticipate a \$79 billion surplus.

What you will read and hear about in the President's budget are the big items -- saving Social Security, guaranteeing the soundness of Medicare, shoring up our nation's defenses, improving our children's schools and reducing the national debt.

But there are other, smaller items that may never make it to the pages of your newspapers but could significantly improve the lives of countless Americans. Here are four examples that I care deeply about and highlighted at White House events this week:

Foster Care: Last November, I wrote a column about the plight of the nearly 20,000 youngsters who each year become too old for foster care. Terry Harrak was compelled to leave foster care when she turned 18, at the beginning of her senior year. With no job and no place to go, Terry became homeless and was forced to finish high school while staying with friends and teachers, in subway terminals and even in hospital emergency rooms. Now, thanks to a local program that helps the homeless, she has a job and is attending community college.

Terry's one of the lucky ones, but no foster child should have to become homeless to obtain help. In his budget, the President proposed funds to help foster youth like Terry by offering them financial support while they develop the skills they need to move into the work force and making sure they have adequate health care until they're 21.

Asthma: Last year, I also wrote about the alarming increase in childhood asthma. Many people don't understand how debilitating this disease can be and that it now affects 6 million American children, double the number 15 years ago. The President's budget includes the largest ever federal

2/3/99 Talking it Over

investment to fight childhood asthma -- through research, disease management education and a new public-information campaign.

Children's Hospitals: I know from my own experience that children's hospitals train 25 percent of this country's pediatricians and nearly half of all pediatric specialists. But unlike teaching hospitals that train doctors who treat adults, they receive very little in the way of federal medical education support. The President's budget would provide funds for children's hospitals to ensure that the physicians they train can meet the special health needs of our nation's children.

Mentoring: Most of us can think back to one or two adults who encouraged, supported and championed us as we were growing up. When I was young, the youth minister at my church opened doors to me and my friends by arranging worship and service opportunities with disadvantaged teens in Chicago, exposing us to art and poetry, and taking us to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak.

I am especially pleased that the President's budget contains two items that support mentoring: the new GEAR UP program, which is aimed at disadvantaged students as they prepare for college, and at-risk youth programs including tutoring, job training, and drug and alcohol prevention.

You may have noticed that I keep referring to the "President's budget." Many people, I have found, assume that when the President announces his budget, the money will be forthcoming. But this is only the beginning of a long and sometimes difficult process.

What happens is this: Once the President has announced his plan, he sends it to Congress, where lawmakers must approve and allocate funds for everything from the FBI and the Peace Corps to highway construction and space exploration.

During this process, various Congressional committees and subcommittees hold hearings. Working with members of the administration, Congress then accepts some of the President's proposals, rejects others and changes still others. Agreement should be reached by Oct. 1, when the new fiscal year begins, although last year, the President couldn't sign the final budget until Oct. 24.

Over the course of the next eight months, you will hear a lot about various budget proposals -- proposals that have the potential to change the lives of millions of American citizens. Let's hope that when Oct. 1 rolls around, the President's plans for the big things like Social Security and Medicare will have passed but also that you'll also see funding so young people like Terry Harrak will never again sleep in subway stations, children will no longer suffer the life-threatening symptoms of asthma, hospitals will train more and better pediatric specialists, and every child will have a champion.

To find out more about Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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