

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Marty Hoffman to distribution (not shown) re Final MOC list for Adoption Event [Personally Identifiable Information] (partial) (1 page)	11/24/1998	b(6)
002a. list	re Families Participating in White House National Adoption Month Ceremony (3 pages)	11/24/1998	b(6)
002b. bios	re Biographical Sketches of Four Families (2 pages)	11/24/1998	b(6)
002c. bio	and info re Charday Mays (2 pages)	11/00/1998	b(6)
003. memo	Nicole Rabner to Barbara Woolley re Adoption Event [Personally Identifiable Information] (partial) (1 page)	11/17/1998	b(6)
004. list	re List of Recommended Adoptive Parents and Adoptions for Adoption Day Program (9 pages)	11/05/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Month - 1998

2014-0536-S

kc1445

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]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

TO: Hillary Rodham Clinton
FROM: Jen and Nicole
DATE: 11/25/98
RE: Miscellaneous Issues

1. Adoption. The reaction from friends and advocates to yesterday's event has been tremendous. We've attached the press clips in case you haven't seen them. The *USA Today* piece appeared on Tuesday.

2. Social Security. In response to your request for briefing materials, we have asked NEC to prepare an initial briefing book on Social Security reform. Gene promises to forward it today directly to Camp David. If you don't have a chance to review it, we can pull out the most important pieces for you next week. But what better way to spend Thanksgiving weekend than with a Gene briefing book! We have also asked other groups (e.g., Bob Greenstein) to prepare materials on reform generally and on the pressing issues for women. We are happy to pull together a group to brief you before the conference if that would be helpful.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

For Williams, Influential Support

Mayor-Elect Meets With First Lady After Adoption Ceremony

By MICHAEL H. COTTMAN
Washington Post Staff Writer

Jovania Phillips, with daughter Donnisha 'India' Woodard, has earned a high school equivalency degree and a new job in recent months. The 21-year-old says she had to learn to be patient and to work hard for what she wanted.

Mayor-elect Anthony A. Williams emerged from the White House yesterday after a 30-minute meeting with Hillary Rodham Clinton, saying the first lady understands the needs of the District and supports his philosophical plan to invest in the District's education and human services.

"I was happy to have a meeting with the first lady. I do believe she is really committed to our city and she has a deep, rich understanding of its problems, its issues and its opportunities," Williams said.

Williams said he and the first lady discussed education, bringing accountability to the District and investing in the city.

The mayor-elect said that speaking with the first lady about issues that affect the District's residents amounts to more than simply a photo opportunity and could transform into tangible support.

"The White House can play a leadership role in the president's plan with the Congress in supporting investment in our city by the federal government," Williams said. "... This will help move us forward."

Williams and Clinton met after taking part in the 12th Annual Adoption Day ceremony in the East Room of the White House, where 24 families completed their adoptions of 30 children.

Eugene N. Hamilton, chief judge of D.C. Superior Court—who has adopted four children himself—signed papers that formally completed the adoption process for a roomful of smiling families just in time for Thanksgiving.

Williams, who was adopted himself and until age 3 could not speak, told the crowd that he would not be standing in the White House if two people had not taken a chance on him.

"Forty-four years ago, my parents brought me into their home, people from the institution telling my mother, 'You can bring Tony in, but you're always going to have trouble with Tony and he's never going to make it,'" the mayor-elect said. "... They brought me into their home and she did have trou-



PHOTOS BY SUSAN BIDDLE—THE WASHINGTON POST



Adoption Day at the White House united 30 children with their parents for good. One new adoptee, Charday Mays, 12, of Prince George's County, introduced the president and got a hug from the first lady. At right above is Dave Thomas, founder and chairman of Wendy's International, an adoptee himself.

ble with me, but I did make it."

The District's child welfare system, with a history of turmoil, has been operated by a federal receiver since 1995, when a U.S. District judge ruled that the city government was not caring adequately for thousands of abused and neglected children. The nine-year-old legal fight continues, with the city filing court papers just yesterday to oppose the current receiver's strategic plan.

Adoptions of foster children increased to a record number in the year ending Sept. 30. The court-appointed monitor called the 168

adoptions a "spectacular accomplishment," although hundreds of children are still waiting.

Edward and Rochelle Mays attended the ceremony and were taking 12-year-old Charday and her brother, Steven, 11, home for good.

"It's something we've always talked about and something we've always wanted to do," said Rochelle Mays, 36. Edward Mays, 41, simply said: "We wanted to give something back to the community."

Staff writer Peter Slevin contributed to this report.

ointments for a local y. She then moved into , where she lives with of the youngest baby. Christmas.

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he has been thinking a ts that she and her ith the windows rolled keep warm. To show rom that, she gets down

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Ben Bagdikian, retired dean of the journalism school at the University of California-Berkeley, questioned airing the segment in the early evening, when children were certain to be watching. "Young children would find it puzzling and frightening," he said, perhaps adding to the fear many youngsters have of vaccinations.

The show — which earned *60 Minutes* its highest ratings

sure for advertisers.

The program opened with Kevorkian and *60 Minutes* correspondent Mike Wallace watching a homemade videotape of Kevorkian's final interview with Youk. Youk, an accountant and classic car collector from Waterford Township, Mich., was described as being in the final stages of Lou Gehrig's disease.

Kevorkian was shown presenting Youk Sept. 15 with consent form to sign. Youk signed it. Then the doctor asked Youk whether he needed more time to think about his decision to end his life.

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Internet registry to help adoption of foster children

By Bill Nichols
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Clinton will announce today plans to create a national Internet registry for children in foster care who are eligible for adoption.

The goal, White House officials say, is to match people who want to adopt children with the 100,000 children in foster care nationwide who are legally eligible for adoption.

Adoption advocates applauded Clinton's instruction to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to develop plans for the computer registry within 60 days.

"Anything we can do to help kids who need a loving home find a wonderful loving home goes in the right direction," says David Liederman, executive director of the Child Welfare League.

Several states offer their own in-state computer registries, and a few small nonprofit groups have national registries. But White House officials say the existing registries can handle only 1,000 children altogether, a fraction of those in foster care who are available for adoption.

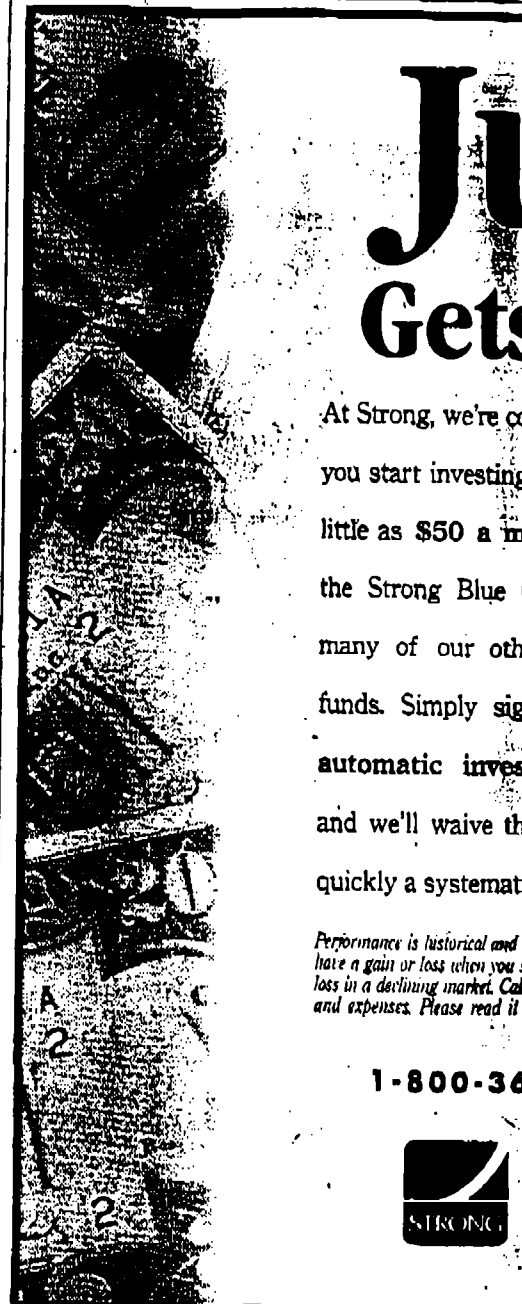
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Prospective parents would have to meet state adoption requirements and any restrictions states might have on interstate adoptions.

White House aides and adoption advocates say there were several hurdles to be cleared before such a registry could be set up.

Shalala and the task force she creates would have to decide what sort of information to make available about each child while still maintaining his or her privacy. Also, before children could be put in the registry, all parental rights would have to have been terminated.

Another concern is that the registry could generate such a strong response that understaffed state agencies could be overwhelmed.



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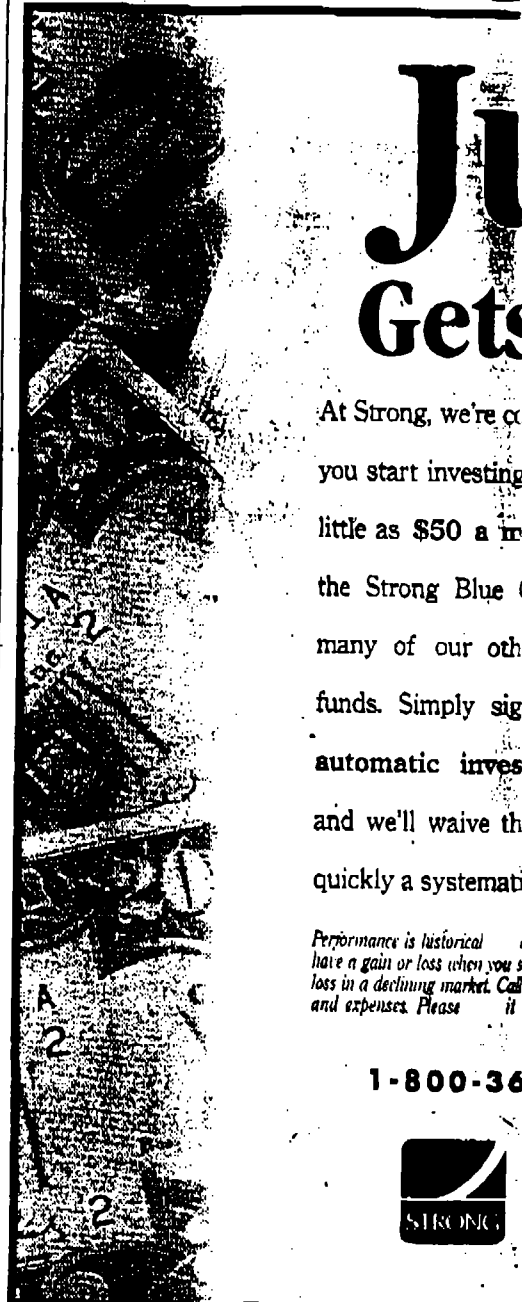
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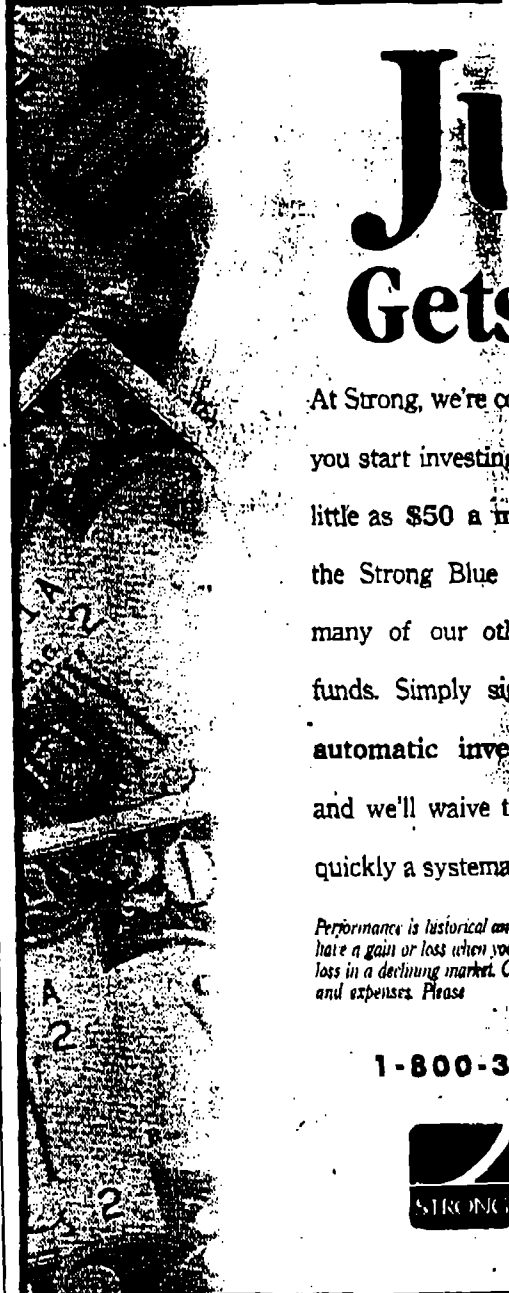
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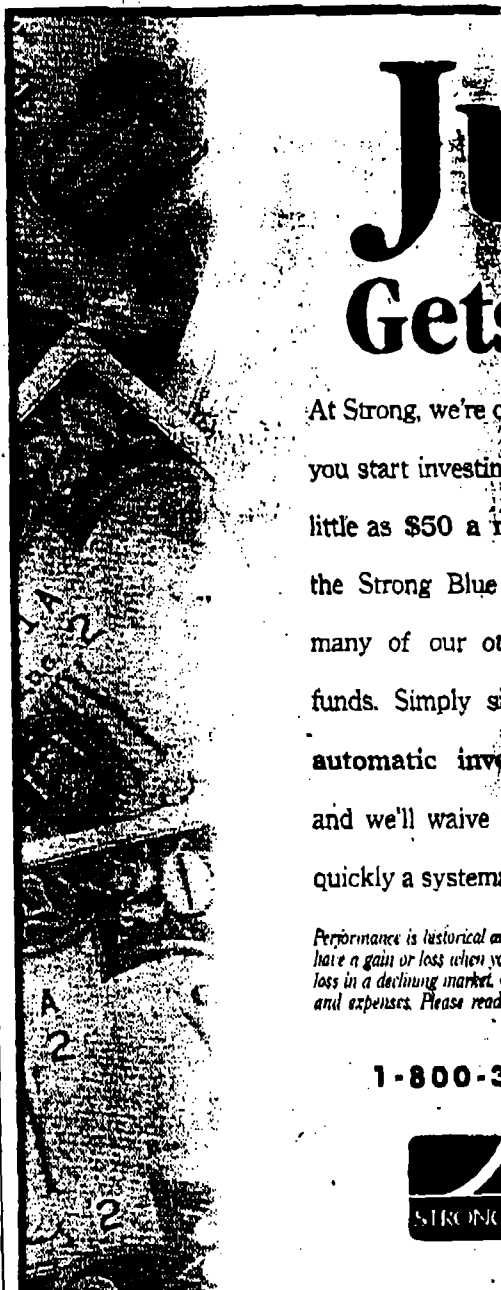
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The Washington Post
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1998

Web Site to List Foster Children for Adoption

By BARBARA VOBEJDA
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton announced yesterday a plan to create an Internet site that will carry photographs and information on as many as 100,000 children in the nation's foster care system in hopes of matching them with adoptive parents.

The president announced the initiative during a White House ceremony marking the first anniversary of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which revamped the foster care sys-

tem to speed the placement of children in permanent homes after they are taken from abusive or neglectful parents.

The law established bonuses of \$4,000 to be paid by the federal government to states for every child who is adopted out of the child protection system, and \$6,000 for the adoption of a child considered hard to place because of age, handicap or other circumstances.

Clinton hopes the new Internet effort will enable the administration to reach its goal of doubling the

number of foster care adoptions by 2002. "We can use the Internet to promote adoptions while protecting the confidentiality of children and families," Clinton said. "Technology has given us an important tool and we should use it."

The ceremony also honored 24 families who adopted children yesterday through the D.C. Superior Court, an annual "Adoption Day" event traditionally held at the court but transferred to the White House at the request of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Among the speakers was

District Mayor-elect Anthony Williams, who was adopted at the age of 3 [Details, Page B8].

Currently, 18 states—including Maryland—maintain their own sites on the World Wide Web to promote adoptions of children in foster care, while other states provide information to private social service agencies that have created similar sites. But the result is a cumbersome and haphazard system that makes it difficult for prospective families to learn about available children across the country.

Under the president's plan, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala will determine over the next two months the best way to create one Internet site that will link the other sites and essentially serve as a clearinghouse for interested parents. HHS officials said the site would protect the privacy of children by posting information only after permission is received from the children's legal guardians.

The nation's foster care system includes about 500,000 children, of whom 100,000 are available for adoption because social workers have determined that they cannot be returned to their birth parents. In the past, just a fraction of those children

have been adopted—the figure was 20,000 in 1995.

By creating financial bonuses and other incentives, the federal law was designed to increase that number. It also was intended to shorten the legal process for determining that a child is free for adoption and to shift the emphasis in cases of severe abuse away from attempts to reunite biological families.

Figures are not yet available to show whether the number of adoptions has increased since passage of the law. But from 1996 to 1997, the number of adoptions increased by more than 10 percent, from 28,000 to 31,000, according to federal statistics.

Nicole R. Rabner

11/23/98 04:09:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject:

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF THE INTERNET
TO INCREASE ADOPTIONS
November 24, 1998**

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.

Using the Internet 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 appropriate 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. 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 to break down geographic barriers to adoption and assist us in meeting our 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, ensures 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.

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First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Month - 1998

2014-0536-S

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11/24/98 10:28:46 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: FINAL MOC list for Adoption Event

EVENT: NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH CELEBRATION
DATE: TUESDAY, NOV. 24
LOCATION: EAST ROOM
TIME: 1:45 PM-2:30 PM
PARTICIPANTS: President
First Lady
Mayor Elect Anthony Williams
DC Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton

MEMBERS CONFIRMED TO ATTEND:

Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI)

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)

Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) & spouse, Jean Oberstar,

(b)(6)

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Linda Woods,

(b)(6)

Robert Kerns,

Ada White,

(b)(6)

Jane Nast,

(b)(6)

Pam Hasegawa,

Abigail Lovett,

(b)(6)

Barbara Cohen,

Jacquelyn Parker,

(b)(6)

Sarah Gesiriech,

(b)(6)

Jason Matthews,

(b)(6)

Message Sent To:

a/o 11/23/98; L. Schwartz 5:00 p.m.

East Room

Gates Open:	12:45 p.m.	Adoption families arrive via bus to EV Gate.
	1:15 p.m.	General guests arrive EV Gate.
	1:15 p.m.	HHS winners and children arrive North Portico escorted by S.O.S. from the Indian Treaty Room.

Invite Time: 1:30 p.m.

Principal Time:	1:10 p.m.	Brief	At Ground Floor Elevator (HRC only)
	1:15 p.m.	Group Photo	South Portico (HRC only)
	1:20 p.m.	Brief	Map Room (POTUS only)
	1:30 p.m.	Meet	State Dining Room (HRC only)
	1:45 p.m.	Event	East Room

3 Volunteers

12:00 p.m. House cleared of tours.

12:40 p.m. IN PLACE TIME

12:45 p.m. EV Gate opens for the Adoption Families.

Note: Families arrive in a bus.

Note: Coat check at Family Theater

Contact: Victoria Lynch; OPL

12:55 p.m. U.S.S.S. - S.O.S meet 50 guests in Indian Treaty Room and escort them to the North Portico for entry to the event -

Note East Room will not be ready to receive guests until 1:15 p.m.

Contact: Kelly O'Dell, Women's Office

1:15 p.m. EV Gate opens and guests proceed to the East Room.

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 (on stage)

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 (seated in audience)

Sen. Levin

Rep. Oberstar and spouse

State Elected Officials (seated in audience)

Governor and Mrs. Edgar, IL

Others (seated in audience)

Mayor and Mrs. Marion Barry - tbd

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.

Meet in
Blue Room

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.

Following reception in State Dining Room, Guests exit East Gate

<i>SET UP NOTES:</i> 180 chairs; 10x16 stage at Washington's portrait on angle; family sitting stage left, cut away at gold curtain; 3 press risers along North wall; water at podium; blue goose; strings and piano in Grand Foyer; US and Presidential flags on stage.
--

**ADOPTION EVENT
RESERVED SEATING**

Name cards in Yellow

Stage

The President

Mrs. Clinton

DC Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton

Mayor-Elect Williams

Ms. Mays

Sec. Donna Shalala

Dave Thomas

seated but by name in yellow:

Mr. Mays and Mrs. Mays

BLUE CARDS BY NAME - SEATED IN AUDIENCE (escorted to seats after meet #2)

Mayor and Mrs. Marion Barry

Gov. And Mrs. Edgar

MEMBER OF CONGRESS CARDS = 2

YELLOW GENERAL RESERVED

ADOPTION FAMILIES FROM STATE DINING ROOM

#: _____ (Approx. 70)

RED CARDS = IGA 10

PINK GENERAL RESERVED = 14

(HHS WINNERS/KIDS FROM INDIAN TREATY ROOM)

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 11/23 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: 11/23 6:00pm

Subject: Adoption Remarks

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
BEGALA	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STEIN	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	STERN	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
LANE	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	WALDMAN	☒	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒	<u>Klein</u> →	☒	☐
MARSHALL	☐	☐	<u>Rubner</u>	☒	☐
MOORE	☐	☐	<u>Kagan</u>	☒	☐
				☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Lt Shesol

RESPONSE:

Draft 11/23/98 12:00pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH EVENT
THE EAST ROOM
November 24, 1998**

Acknowledgments: the First Lady; Sec. Shalala; Gov. Edgar and Mrs. Edgar; DC Mayor Marion Barry; DC Mayor-elect Anthony Williams; Chief Judge Hamilton; Dave Thomas, head of Wendy's and the Dave Thomas Foundation; other speaker TBD

First, let me congratulate the families who have opened their arms today to new members -- and for making this momentous occasion a public one, so other Americans can share in their joy and, we hope, follow their example. I also want to extend my congratulations to this year's Adoption 2002 Award winners, and to offer you my gratitude for all the work you are doing in your states and your communities to encourage adoption. And the First Lady, as all of you know, has been working on this issue almost as long as I have known her, and I want to thank her for leading our efforts to make sure all our children spend the holidays -- and every other day -- with families that love and care for them.

The families who join us here today have something new -- someone new -- to be grateful for in this season of Thanksgiving. The expressions you are wearing today make a powerful statement: when we give, we grow. And, to a child in foster care, there can be no greater gift than a strong and loving family. There is no greater need than for a decent and orderly upbringing; and no greater desire than for a safe, healthy, and happy home.

That is why I have pledged my administration to help our foster children find the homes -- and the futures -- they deserve. The First Lady and other speakers, I know, have told you about the ways we are making good on that pledge... reforming our nation's approach to foster care and adoption... making the system work better for the children and families it serves. We are getting ever closer to our goal of doubling the number of children adopted by the year 2002. I am pleased to report that between 1996 and 1997, the number of adoptions increased by 10 percent, from 28,000 to 31,000.

We know, however, that the number of adoptions is not the only measure of our progress. The real measure is whether our child welfare system puts the health and safety of children above all... whether children have the chance to live out their dreams and fulfill their potential... whether families who open their arms can reach -- to embrace -- a child in need.

As we celebrate National Adoption Month, Americans can take pride in the progress we are making. Still, we know there is more work to be done. We know that geographic and other barriers to adoption still exist. We also know we must do a better job in 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 take technology as a partner -- and propel the public child welfare system into the 21st Century.

Today, therefore, I am directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the states, the courts, and private agencies, and to report to me within 60 days on a plan for a national, Internet-based registry of children waiting to be adopted. There are 100,000 children waiting in foster care for permanent, adoptive homes. The Internet holds the potential to shorten their wait -- to make an online link between foster care centers and families looking to adopt. Some states and private partners are already forging these connections, bringing together families in Alaska and children in Pennsylvania, for example. We want to build on these efforts to the extent that it is possible or appropriate. By working closely with the states, we can use the Internet to promote adoptions while protecting the confidentiality of children and families. Technology gives us an important tool. We should use it.

Thanksgiving, again, is approaching; and families all across our nation are coming together to express their gratitude for the things that matter most. We sometimes speak of the comforts of home as the "small blessings"; but, when you look in the eyes of these grateful children and their adoptive families, we remember that there are few greater blessings. I would like to encourage more families to follow the example of those who join us here today -- to open their arms, and their hearts, to children who need loving homes. When we resolve to give our children the futures they deserve, we are blessed not only as individuals, but as a nation. Thank you -- and let me wish a very Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.

I would now like to invite all of you to celebrate this special day at a reception in the State Dining Room.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002a. list	re Families Participating in White House National Adoption Month Ceremony (3 pages)	11/24/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Month - 1998

2014-0536-S

kc1445

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002b. bios	re Biographical Sketches of Four Families (2 pages)	11/24/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Month - 1998

2014-0536-S

kc1445

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]
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- 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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- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002c. bio	and info re Charday Mays (2 pages)	11/00/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Month - 1998

2014-0536-S

kc1445

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]
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PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF THE INTERNET TO INCREASE ADOPTIONS

November 24, 1998

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 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. 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 to 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.



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.

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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.

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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.

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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 Evazz, 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.

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.

**REMARKS OF CHIEF JUDGE
EUGENE N. HAMILTON
WHITE HOUSE
NOVEMBER 24, 1998**

Thank you Mrs. Clinton for those kind words. Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton...

This is Adoption Day in Court 1998 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. This is the Twelfth Annual Adoption Day.

ACKNOWLEDGE SELECTED MEMBERS OF JUDICIARY AND GENERAL RECEIVER

Adoption Day is normally held in the Atrium of the Moultrie Courthouse of the District of Columbia, but this year, through the most generous invitation of the First Lady, the Twelfth Annual Adoption Day in Court is being held here in the East Room of the White House. These proceedings are being simul-cast back to the Moultrie Courthouse by BET as a public service.

On Adoption Day in Court, the Superior Court, with the consent of adopting parents, opens adoption proceedings to the public. We do this to give community recognition to the outstanding people who so unselfishly open their hearts, homes and families to give children a safe and permanent home through adoption.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 mandates that children in the child welfare system be placed in safe and permanent homes within a much shorter period than ever before. We must, therefore, increase the number of qualified persons willing to become adoptive parents. We are sure that conducting our Adoption Day in the People's House, the White House, will significantly advance this objective. I am sure that many will be inspired by these proceedings to step up and become adoptive parents and will learn as so many others have that adoption is a magnificent experience.

Twenty-four families, are here with us today who have filed adoption petition for a total of thirty children. I have reviewed the Agency reports that recommended that these petitions be granted, and based thereon, I have just signed the adoption orders for these very special and beautiful children. Let me introduce them and their families to you: I ask that the families please stand as I identify you and ask that the audience please hold your applause until the end.

1. Richard Ira Honig & Dita Verheig-Honig are adopting Saige.
2. Albert & Barbara Elmore are adopting Evander Lee and Christina.

3. Ms. Vannessia E. Davenport Campbell is adopting LaTonya Renee.
4. Frances A. Cowan is adopting, Shirlene Marie & Gregory Rashawn.
5. Ms Barbara I. Ruffin, is adopting Victoria and Vivian.
6. Jeffrey & Rochelle Barnes are adopting Fertiree Autumn Deshawn and Niles Tyshawn
7. Edward & Rochelle Mays are adopting Steven and Charday.
8. Janet and Wendell Myers are today adopting Destiny Marie.
9. Robin and Bernard Jackson are today adopting Naomi.
10. Keith & Nancy Wawrzyniak (WAR-ZIN-EAC) are today adopting Kenika Starlite.
11. Vannessia & Leroy Chambers are today adopting Angela Lakeisha.
12. Clarence and Yvette Evans are today adopting Nakia Ashley.
13. James Dukes & Alicia Dukes-Smith are adopting Constantina Elizabeth.
14. Kenneth and Deborah Washington are adopting LaTasha.
15. David Edward Sahr (SAR) and Lori Ruth Milstein are adopting Joshua.
16. David & Paula Robinson are adopting Sean Mykiel.
17. Joseph and Susan Garcia are adopting Everett.
18. Willis and Joyce Miller are adopting Pamela Rena.
19. Margie L. Barnes is adopting Latonya.
20. Sergeant Terri Tanya Alexander is adopting Sarah Laya.
21. Sherry Thomas is adopting Malik.
22. Rhoda Zione is today adopting Kahlil.

23. Stephanie Kay Eshelman is adopting Brittany.

24. Ellen M. Wells is today adopting Jessica.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I hope the commitments we see here today inspire many, many others to come forward for children in need of a safe and permanent home.

Ladies and Gentlemen: before this Adoption Day In Court Program was invited to the White House, Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams had so generously accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker. We asked Mr. Williams to be the speaker because he was the fortunate beneficiary of a safe and permanent home and loving family through the adoption process.

Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored to present to you Mayor-Elect of the District of Columbia, Anthony Williams.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Chief Judge Annice M. Wagner
D.C. Court of Appeals

Judge George W. Mitchell
Presiding Judge
Family Division

Judge Zinora Mitchell-Rankin
Deputy Presiding Judge
Family Division

Former Presiding Judges of the Family Division
Judge Bruce Mencher
Judge Geoffrey Alprin
Judge Susan Winfield

Ms Ernestine Jones
General Receiver
Child & Family Services

**NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH EVENT
INTERNAL Q & A
November 24, 1998**

Q. What is the President announcing today?

A: The President will issue a directive to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the states, courts, private agencies and others to develop a plan to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from the foster care system. There are approximately 100,000 children in our country who everyday wait in foster care for a permanent, adoptive home. Sharing information about children who are legally free for adoption on a national Internet registry will help break down geographic barriers to adoption and shorten the time needed to find adoptive families. The Secretary will report to the President within 60 days with a plan to consult closely with the States, ensure appropriate confidentiality safeguards, identify important issues and strategies for addressing them, and examine ways to build on promising existing efforts.

Q: Isn't the Internet already being used in this way? Is this executive memorandum duplicative of existing efforts?

A: No. Today, the Internet is not being used to its fullest potential to break down geographic barriers to adoption and help us to meet our national goal to double adoptions from the foster care system by the year 2002. There are some efforts underway by private organizations, States, and local governments to use the Internet to facilitate adoptions, but even the largest site now in operation lists the photos of only 1,000 children. The President is directing HHS to develop a plan to use the Internet to its fullest capability to help the more than 100,000 children awaiting a permanent home. The executive memorandum asks HHS to build on promising existing efforts by States and private organizations.

Q: Will you meet the President's goal of doubling the number of children adopted or permanently placed from foster care by 2002? How close are you?

A: We are confident that we will meet the President's goal -- set in 1996 -- to double the number of children adopted or permanently placed from foster care by the year 2002. We now know that from 1996 to 1997 alone, States increased adoptions by over 10 percent -- from 28,000 to 31,000. And, we have been very pleased with the positive work of States to meeting the President's goal -- States are investing resources, training staff, expanding outreach and recruitment efforts, and setting tough year-by-year goals.

Q: What is happening at the White House with the D.C. Court?

A: Today, 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. This year is the 12th annual event, and a record 24 families will adopt 30 children. The D.C. Court invited the First Lady to participate in the ceremony at the D.C. Court House, and she offered to host it at the White House. D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton will preside over this portion of the White House ceremony, and will introduce each of the participating families. Also, Mayor-elect Tony Williams -- who himself was adopted from foster care -- will participate in the program at the Court's request. The Court selected for its theme this year "Adoption: Creating Loving Families for the Twenty-First Century."

Q: What is the Adoption and Safe Families Act?

A: 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. 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. This landmark legislation was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton Administration's *Adoption 2002* report, which was requested by the President by executive memorandum on December 14, 1996 to meet his adoption and foster care goals.

Q: What was the "Adoption 2002" report?

A: In response to a 1996 Presidential directive, HHS developed the "Adoption 2002" report, an administrative and legislative blueprint to strengthen our nation's child welfare system. The report took its name from one of the President's central goals -- to at least double by the year 2002 the number of children adopted or permanently placed each year. "Adoption 2002" outlined a new action plan to set and meet urgent new adoption targets. We were very pleased that the Adoption and Safe Families Act was based in large part on the recommendations of this report, including clarifications to the reasonable efforts standard, new financial incentives for States to increase adoptions, and increased technical assistance to states, courts and communities to help move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes.

Q: What else has the Administration done to promote adoption?

A: The Clinton Administration has taken several important steps to encourage and increase adoptions and to support families that choose to open their hearts and their homes to these children. Since taking office in 1993, the President has championed programs that find and assist adopting families, and has committed his Administration to breaking down barriers, including high adoption costs and complex regulations.

These steps include (1) signing into law a \$5,000 tax credit to families that adopt and a \$6000 tax credit for families that adopt children with special needs; (2) ensuring that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity through the Inter-Ethnic provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996; and (3) signing into law the Family Medical Leave Act, enabling parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance.

Q: What are the adoption awards being given out?

A: The "Adoption 2002" report recommended that the Department of Health and Human Services work in collaboration with foundations and intergovernmental organizations to establish annual awards to recognize states, local agencies, courts, private organizations, employers and others who are making key contributions to the national effort to support adoption and promote permanency for children in foster care. This is the second year of these awards and they are being announced to celebrate National Adoption Month. HHS is giving out the awards in a private ceremony, and the awardees will be guests at the White House event. This year's 8 awardees are: (1) the Georgia Department of Human Services Office of Adoptions; (2) the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; (3) Hope for the Children, Inc., Rantoul, IL; (4) Three Rivers Adoption Council, Pittsburgh, PA; (5) Tim O'Hanlon, Ohio North American Council on Adoptable Children; (6) Governor and Mrs. Jim Edgar, IL; (7) Kansas Association of Broadcasters; and (8) Judge Max Baer, Allegheny Juvenile Court, PA.

Q: What does our nation's child welfare system look like today? How many children are in it and how long do they stay in foster care on average?

A: Today, approximately 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. More than 100,000 of those children cannot return safely to their homes and need adoptive families. Our most recent data indicate that nearly 60 percent have been in care 24 months or longer. Of the children in care, the average age is 7; 35 percent are white, 45 percent are black, and 14 percent are Hispanic; and 5 percent of children turn 18 and leave the foster care system without having a permanent home.

Q: How much funding does the federal government invest in foster care and adoption services?

A: The federal government provides over \$5.5 billion to States to run their foster care, adoption and child welfare programs. The funding provides a variety of supports to States which include: preventive services, investigations of child abuse and neglect, caseworkers and administrators, foster care adoption benefits to families, training, recruitment of foster and adoptive families, demonstration grants to test innovative programs, services for teenagers who are leaving foster care to be on their own, and supports for children with special needs. States must provide matching funds in order to access a majority of these funds.

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUBJECT: Using the Internet to Increase Adoptions

Technology will be an ever more important partner in 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 ~~increase the number of adoptions~~ from our nation's foster care system.

meet our national goal of doubling, by the year 2002, adoptions and other permanent placements

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. We have made it easier for families to adopt through the Family and Medical Leave Act and tax credits. We have eliminated discrimination and delay based on race and ethnicity. And, last year, we enacted 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 know that there is ^{many} more work to be done. We know that geographic and other barriers to adoption still exist. We also know that we must do a better job in informing America's families about the ~~nearly 100,000~~ 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, today I am directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the States, courts, private agencies and other leaders 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 who everyday wait in foster care for a permanent, adoptive home. Sharing information about children legally free for adoption through a national Internet ~~service~~ could shorten the time needed to find them adoptive families. 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. The Secretary will 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 registry.*

national

registry

Date

Thoughts?

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Subject: Using Technology to Increase Adoptions

Introductory paragraph: approach of the new millennium; celebrating National Adoption Month; unprecedented power of technology; using technology to break down geographic barriers to adoption "I believe technology can play an important role in facilitating adoptions"; working toward goal of doubling adoptions and permanent placements from the public child welfare system by 2002; celebrating progress made (ASFA, MEPA, tax credit, etc.); we know that exposure gets children adopted. . .

Therefore, today I am directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the States, courts, private agencies and other leaders to develop a plan for a national Internet-based registry of children waiting to be adopted from the public child welfare system. To the fullest extent possible and appropriate, this registry should include all of the approximately 100,000 children in our country who everyday wait in foster care for a permanent, adoptive home. Close consultation with the States will be necessary for the registry's success. The Secretary will report to me within 30 days with a plan to carry out this consultation, build on important existing efforts in this area, and address important concerns of privacy and state capacity.

--Date

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Subject: Using Technology to Increase Adoptions

Introductory paragraph: approach of the new millennium; celebrating National Adoption Month; unprecedented power of technology; using technology to break down geographic barriers to adoption "I believe technology can play an important role in facilitating adoptions"; working toward goal of doubling adoptions and permanent placements from the public child welfare system by 2002; celebrating progress made (ASFA, MEPA, tax credit, etc.); we know that exposure gets children adopted. . .

Therefore, today I am directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the States and other relevant leaders to develop a national Internet-based registry of children waiting to be adopted from the public child welfare system. To the fullest extent possible and appropriate, this registry should include all of the approximately 100,000 children in our country who everyday wait in foster care for a permanent, adoptive home. The Secretary will report to me within xx days with a plan to establish this registry in close partnership with the States, building on important existing efforts in this area and addressing important concerns of privacy and state capacity.

DRAFT

Potential on-line photolisting announcement

16-Nov-98

A Presidential directive or memorandum to HHS to explore with the States and other relevant parties (courts, advocates, private agencies, especially those with photolistings) how to increase the number of children and families listed on-line through, e.g., expansion and better coordination of existing photolisting services. This HHS-led effort would address concerns such as privacy of children and State capacity regarding interstate placements. HHS would report back to President within 12 months with a plan (for boosting the number of children and families listed on the Internet).

Interstate Compact on Placements - all
Adoptions - some

Nat'l Exchange
paper - 3,000
kids

Faces : vol.
35 states - 1,000 children
18 state-wide listing.



Emil Parker <eparker @ acf.dhhs.gov>
11/18/98 11:36:54 AM

Please respond to eparker@acf.dhhs.gov

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP
cc: Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP, Carol W Williams <cwilliams @ acf.dhhs.gov>, Marianne Ruffy <mruffy @ acf.dhhs.gov>
Subject: re: executive memorandum

We appreciate your effort at a compromise, but this draft memorandum goes well beyond the point at which we'd be comfortable. It essentially commits us to developing a national Internet photolisting service that includes basically all of the 100,000 children waiting for adoption. We simply do not know whether this is remotely feasible -- we may discover that, for example, the difficulties with interstate placements are such that helping States list another 5,000 children on State Internet sites is the most we can do.

Moreover, States would probably interpret the proposed announcement as the start of a Federal effort to require them to put virtually all their children on an Internet photolisting site -- this could provoke strong resistance which would in turn seriously impair our attempts to consult.

Below is a modified version of your language which I think would work for us (although I haven't had the opportunity to run the revised version by Carol, since she is just getting back from a trip to Cincinnati).

"Therefore, today I am directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the States, courts, private agencies and other leaders to develop a plan for expanding 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 who everyday wait in foster care for a permanent, adoptive home. ~~For some of these children, photolisting on the Internet could shorten the time needed to find an adoptive family.~~ Close consultation with the States will be necessary to take full advantage of the Internet's potential to promote adoptions. The Secretary will report to me within 90 days with a plan to carry out this consultation, build on important existing efforts in this area, and address important concerns, including children's privacy and state capacity."

Original Text

From: <Nicole_R_Rabner@who.eop.gov>, on 11/17/98 12:03 PM:
Below please find our stab at a draft of this executive memorandum. You'll note that we direct HHS to report back with a plan for consultation not for

execution. I think this may resolve the discrepancy between our desire to have something soon, and your desire for time to consult, etc. I will be out of the office after 2:00pm today, and will be out until about 5:30pm tomorrow. Please feel free, however, to get in touch with Jen to discuss. Thanks very much for all your help.

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Subject: Using Technology to Increase Adoptions

Introductory paragraph: approach of the new millennium; celebrating National Adoption Month; unprecedented power of technology; using technology to break down geographic barriers to adoption ?I believe technology can play an important role in facilitating adoptions?; working toward goal of doubling adoptions and permanent placements from the public child welfare system by 2002; celebrating progress made (ASFA, MEPA, tax credit, etc.); we know that exposure gets children adopted. . .

Therefore, today I am directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with the States, courts, private agencies and other leaders to develop a plan for a national Internet-based registry of children waiting to be adopted from the public child welfare system. To the fullest extent possible and appropriate, this registry should include all of the approximately 100,000 children in our country who everyday wait in foster care for a permanent, adoptive home. Close consultation with the States will be necessary for the registry?s success. The Secretary will report to me within 30 days with a plan to carry out this consultation, build on important existing efforts in this area, and address important concerns of privacy and state capacity.

Nicole R. Rabner

11/17/98 01:15:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Barbara D. Woolley/WHO/EOP
cc: Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP, Christa Robinson/OPD/EOP
Subject: Adoption Event

Barbara, thanks very much for helping coordinate the many pieces of this event, particularly the list. As we discussed, below please find contact information for each of the list pieces. While I will be away this afternoon and tomorrow, you can call/page Jennifer if you need help or have questions.

- (1) 20-25 Families from the District of Columbia who are participating in the 1998 D.C. Adoption Day ceremonial proceedings. Total # TBD, roughly 65 (Families will include only those involved in the immediate adoption (*i.e.* single parent and child or two parents and child). Court will provide DOB and SSN of families and be the direct contact, but I think there needs to be a contact for them on game day. *Contact: Judge Rona Beck, w 879-1211; dir 879-1162; h 966-6554*
- (2) D.C. judicial and child welfare community. Total # TBD, roughly 25-30 (I said we would do our best on getting these invited, and asked them to prioritize)*Contact: Judge Beck, # above*
- (3) Adoption 2002 1998 award recipients (8 recipients; HHS wants each to bring a guest/spouse -- will you check with the Social Office? Also, HHS wants to reserve a room in the WH Conf Center/OEOB to give the awardees their awards (like last year) before the event -- will you look into this and let HHS know? I very much think we should do this) *Contact: Mary Ann Ruftie, Children's Bureau, HHS 401-2779 or if you need to go higher, feel free to call Liz Sume, Dep. chief of staff 690-7431 (I think she is clearing these lists before they come over)*
- (4) National advocacy community (balance of room capacity, roughly 50):
Contact: (1) HHS , Mary Ann Ruftie or Liz (# above);
(2) Wendy's Foundation on Adoption, Kitty Munger
614-764-3241 (the Wendy's list, as I discussd, includes a big group of family of
Dave Thomas -- I have their list and will fax it)
- (5) Congressional and Cabinet (HHS) participation TBD

ADOPTION EVENT MUST INVITES

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. memo	Nicole Rabner to Barbara Woolley re Adoption Event [Personally Identifiable Information] (partial) (1 page)	11/17/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Month - 1998

2014-0536-S

kc1445

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

[003]

Noel Brennan
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
202/307-5933

Carolyn Lamm
White & Case
202/626-3600

Carolyn Johnson
The National Adoption Center
215/735-9988

Gloria Hockman
The National Adoption Center
215/735-9988

Laura Schiller's family:

Emily Wile Schiller -
Chelsea Ann Toller -

(b)(6)

**TWELFTH ANNUAL
ADOPTION DAY IN COURT
NOVEMBER 24, 1998**

OPEN YOUR HOME

**"ADOPTION: CREATING
LOVING FAMILIES FOR THE
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY"**

**OPEN
YOUR
HEART**



**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AND
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY**



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 4, 1998

Contact: Margaret Summers
Communications Officer
(202) 879-1219

**TWENTY-FIVE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES GOAL FOR
SUPERIOR COURT ADOPTION DAY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A record twenty-five adoptive families may participate in the Superior Court's 12th Annual Adoption Day Ceremony on Tuesday, November 24, 1998, at 10 a.m. in the third floor atrium of the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Former District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer and Mayor-Elect Anthony Williams, who is himself an adoptee, will be a featured speaker. The event is co-sponsored by the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency. **TELEVISION NEWS VIDEO CAMERAS, PRINT NEWS STILL CAMERAS AND RADIO NEWS AUDIO TAPE RECORDERS WILL BE PERMITTED INTO THE COURTHOUSE TO COVER THE EVENT.**

Adoption Day is held every November during National Adoption Month, to encourage adoptions in the District of Columbia, and to call attention to the many children in the District who need a home, particularly special needs children. Last year, 16 families adopted children during the ceremony, the highest number of adoptive families in the history of the event. The Honorable George W. Mitchell, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Family Division, and The Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin, Deputy Presiding Judge of the Family Division, will preside over this year's ceremony. Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton will speak at the event. Chief Judge Hamilton and his wife Virginia are the adoptive parents of four children, and have been foster parents to more than 40 children in 25 years, many of whom had special needs.

The Court is encouraging more adoptions in the District to help meet the national adoptions goal set by President Clinton in 1996 to double the number of adoptions and permanent placements for children to 54,000 by the year 2002. President Clinton is directing the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, the Treasury, Labor and Commerce, and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, to promote efforts to increase the number of adoptions and permanent placements annually, and to move children in foster care more quickly to permanent homes. He also asked members of his Administration to work with the States, communities and civic leaders to meet the goal of 54,000 permanent placements for children by the year 2002.

Over the last few years, processing adoption cases at the Superior Court has improved significantly. In 1995, 176 adoption decrees were granted by the Court; by the end of September, 1998, the figure grew to 232, an increase of 32%, and it continues to climb. New adoption case filings also increased during that period. In 1995, new case filings totaled 297; as of the end of September, 1998, new case filings totaled 431, a 45% increase.

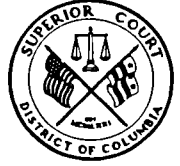
"This is due to an increased confidence in the community in the Court's ability to handle such cases," says Judge Mitchell. "It is also due to enhanced and improved recruitment efforts on the part of both the Court and the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency, and to the increased interest in adoptions generated by the annual Adoption Day event. And it is due in large measure to the work of former Superior Court Associate Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Senior, who recently retired from the bench. During the years he presided over adoptions cases, he was highly successful in decreasing the time it takes to adopt children in the District."

#

JUDGE MITCHELL IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS REGARDING ADOPTION DAY. TO SCHEDULE A RADIO, TELEVISION OR PRINT INTERVIEW WITH JUDGE MITCHELL, CONTACT MARGARET SUMMERS, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS, (202) 879-1219.



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 25, 1997

Contact: Margaret Summers
Communications Officer
(202) 879-1219

**SIXTEEN FAMILIES TO ADOPT CHILDREN AT ELEVENTH ANNUAL
ADOPTION DAY CEREMONY, SPONSORED BY THE SUPERIOR COURT AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A record 16 families will finalize adoptions of 20 children publicly during the Eleventh Annual Adoption Day Ceremony, which will be held Tuesday, November 25, 1997, at 10 a.m. in the third floor atrium of the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The event is sponsored by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency. **ELECTRONIC NEWS MEDIA AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL BE PERMITTED INTO THE COURTHOUSE TO COVER THE EVENT.**

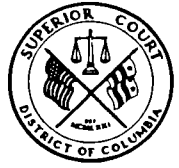
Adoption Day is held every November, which is National Adoption Month, to encourage adoptions in the District of Columbia, and to call attention to the many children in the District who need a home, particularly special needs children. The theme of the event is "Adoption . . . The Loving Choice". The guest speakers at the Adoption Day Ceremony will be Dr. Carol W. Williams, Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, and District of Columbia Council Chairman Linda W. Cropp, who is an adoptive parent. Williams, who has been the Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau since March, 1994, is responsible for the management and oversight of Administration for Children and Families programs which focus on child protection and welfare services that strengthen and support children and families.

The Honorable George W. Mitchell, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Family Division, and The Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin, Deputy Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Family Division, will preside over the ceremony. The Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, will also participate.

Additionally, the Honorable Eugene N. Hamilton, Chief Judge of the Superior Court, will speak at the event. Chief Judge Hamilton and his wife Virginia are the adoptive parents of four children, and have been foster parents to more than 40 children in 25 years, many of whom had special needs.



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 25, 1997

Contact: Margaret Summers
Communications Officer
(202) 879-1219

**SUPERIOR COURT EXPEDITES ADOPTION OF
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHILDREN**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On the occasion of the November 25, 1997 Superior Court of the District of Columbia's Eleventh Annual Adoption Day Ceremony, which is always held in November, National Adoption Month, the Court announces that it has successfully decreased the time it takes to adopt District of Columbia children.

Two years ago, it took an average of 406 days for the disposition of adoption cases. But in calendar year 1996, the most recent year for which statistics are available, it took an average of 253 days. Superior Court Associate Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., who presides over adoption cases, has signed 312 adoption decrees between October 5, 1996, the month when he was assigned the Court's adoption calendar, and November 25, 1997, the date of this year's Adoption Day Ceremony. On average, contested adoption cases take just under one year to finalize; uncontested cases take approximately five months.

"Our efforts to reduce the time it takes to adopt children locally pre-date even the more recent national thrust," notes Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton. "Earlier this month, the House of Representatives and the United States Senate passed a measure designed to speed up adoption of abused and neglected children who now spend an average of two years in foster homes. The bill has been signed by President Clinton. Under the bill, states will be required to begin proceedings to terminate the birth parents' rights after a child has spent 15 months in foster care, almost instantly if the child has been abused. State officials and courts will still make the daily decisions about when a child should be removed from a home, and whether a child should be put up for adoption.

"Additionally, in December, 1996, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, the Treasury, Labor and Commerce, and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, to promote efforts to increase the number of adoptions and permanent placements annually, and to move children in foster care more quickly to permanent homes. He also asked members of his Administration to work with the States, communities and civic leaders to create a plan for doubling the number of adoptions and permanent placements for children to 54,000 by the year 2002.

"We in the Superior Court are doing everything possible to help meet the national goal, as well as to expedite District adoptions," adds Chief Judge Hamilton. "There are approximately 2,700 District children in foster care. They need the stability and security which comes with being adopted into a loving, nurturing family. The Court's annual Adoption Day Ceremony is designed to encourage District residents to reach out to these children, and give them the warmth and affection of a permanent home."

Sixteen families will publicly adopt 20 children in this year's Superior Court Adoption Day Ceremony. Co-sponsored by the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency, the event will be held Tuesday, November 25, 1997, at 10 a.m., in the third floor atrium of the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 18, 1996

**Contact: Margaret Summers
Communications Officer
(202) 879-1219**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN PRESIDENT DOROTHY HEIGHT
TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER AT SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TENTH ANNUAL ADOPTION DAY CEREMONY**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Dr. Dorothy I. Height, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of Negro Women, will be the featured speaker at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia's Tenth Annual Adoption Day Ceremony on Tuesday, November 26, 1996, at 11 a.m., in the third floor atrium of the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. **TELEVISION NEWS CAMERAS MAY ONLY COVER THE EVENT BY POOL COVERAGE. TELEVISION STATIONS WISHING POOL COVERAGE MUST CONTACT LOCAL POOL COORDINATOR NATALIE JOOST AT WTTG-TV NEWS, (202) 895-3000 BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1996. NEWSPAPERS' STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND RADIO NEWS REPORTERS WITH AUDIO TAPE RECORDERS WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE TO COVER THE EVENT. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, PORTABLE TELEVISION NEWS CAMERAS WILL BE PERMITTED TO COVER THE RECEPTION, AND REPORTERS MAY INTERVIEW ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND/OR THEIR CHILDREN, AS WELL AS OTHER CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS.**

Dr. Height brings to the Adoption Day Ceremony her considerable expertise on families and parenting. Under the leadership of Dr. Height, the National Council of Negro Women has engaged in numerous activities and programs designed to encourage and strengthen families, particularly the organization's annual Black Family Reunions which are held in various cities nationally, and involve games and educational activities for children, youth and adults, and workshops on family concerns.

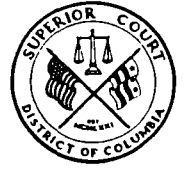
The theme for the Superior Court's Tenth Annual Adoption Day Ceremony is "Adoption . . . The Loving Choice." The event, held every November during National Adoption Month, calls attention to the adoption process and the many children in the District who need a home, especially special needs children. Nine children will be adopted as part of this year's ceremony.

The Honorable George W. Mitchell, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Family Division, and The Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin, Deputy Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Family Division, will preside over the ceremony. The Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, will also participate.

The Honorable Eugene N. Hamilton, Chief Judge of the Superior Court, will also speak at the ceremony. Chief Judge Hamilton and his wife Virginia are the adoptive parents of four children, and have been foster parents to more than 40 children over the last 25 years, many of whom had special needs.



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 20, 1995

Contact: Margaret Summers
Communications Officer
(202) 879-1219

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO HOLD
NINTH ANNUAL ADOPTION DAY CEREMONY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- November is National Adoption Month, and for the ninth consecutive year, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia will observe National Adoption Month by holding an Adoption Day ceremony. The event will take place on Tuesday, November 21, 1995, at 11 a.m. in the third floor Atrium of the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Honorable George W. Mitchell and The Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin, the Presiding and Deputy Presiding Judges respectively of the Superior Court's Family Division, will preside over the ceremony. The Honorable Evelyn E. Queen, who presides over the Superior Court's adoptions calendar, will also participate.

WUSA-TV, Channel 9 News is the single camera permitted in the courthouse to cover the event. Television stations wishing pool coverage must contact Maggie Dore, Executive Editor, WUSA-TV9 News, by Monday, November 20, 1995, at (202) 895-5535, or (202) 895-5588. Following the ceremony, portable news cameras will be permitted to cover the reception, and reporters may interview adoptive parents and/or their children, as well as other ceremony participants.

The annual event calls attention to the adoption process and the many children who need a home. This year ten families will be adopting twelve children.

Among the featured speakers in the ceremony will be Father George Clements, who in 1981 became the first Catholic priest to adopt when he adopted his son, Joey, and launched the One Church, One Child program in Chicago. After Joey, Father Clements adopted three more sons. He is currently working with the Washington, D.C.-based American Alliance for Rights and Responsibilities to launch a new program called One Church, One Addict, which will help churches assist recovering drug addicts.

Another featured speaker will be Kent B. Amos, President of the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Family Institute. A native Washingtonian and a former Xerox Corporation vice president, Mr. Amos is noted for his commitment to, and work on behalf of, children, and is himself an adoptive parent. He has appeared on the "Donahue," "Oprah," and "Today" programs to discuss children's issues, and has advocated for children's issues before Congress.

Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton, who with his wife Virginia adopted four children, and have been foster parents to more than 40 children over the past 25 years, many of whom had special needs, will also speak at the ceremony.



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 1994

Contact: Ulysses B. Hammond
District of Columbia Courts
(202) 879-1700

SUPERIOR COURT CELEBRATES THE EIGHTH ANNUAL ADOPTION DAY IN COURT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1994

Superior Court of the District of Columbia Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton announced today the Superior Court's celebration of the Eighth Annual Adoption Day in Court on Tuesday, November 22, 1994. The Honorable Susan R. Winfield, Presiding Judge of the Family Division will preside at an Adoption Day Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 201.

This year's keynote speaker, Mr. Shane Salter, is an impassioned advocate for the needs of children. Mr. Salter grew up in the foster care system, and is also an adoptive parent. He serves as Director of Nursing Services at Children's Hospital.

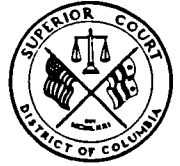
Twelve children will be adopted at this year's Court ceremony. This annual event, which calls attention to the adoption process and the many children who need a home, takes place during National Adoption Month.

Media wishing to cover the Adoption Day program should report to the main entrance of the D.C. Courthouse no later than 9:30 a.m. **There will be a single live camera covering the ceremony. This camera will transmit the ceremony to a distribution amp through which interested parties may pick up the feed for their own transmission.** Media persons having questions regarding the single line feed should call Maggie Dore at 895-5700. At the reception following the ceremony, a special area in the hall will be set aside for any participants who wish to speak to the media.

A reception will follow at approximately 11:00 a.m. in the hall outside the courtroom.



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 1993

Contact: Steve Ramirez
District of Columbia Courts
202) 879-4812

JANET RENO, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL,
KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL ADOPTION DAY IN SUPERIOR
COURT ON NOVEMBER 23, 1993

Superior Court of the District of Columbia Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton announced today that Janet Reno, United States Attorney General, will be the keynote speaker at the Superior Court's Seventh Annual Adoption Day on November 23, 1993. This year eight children will be adopted into families.

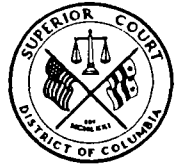
The Honorable Susan R. Winfield, Presiding Judge of the Family Division will preside at an adoption ceremony at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 201. In addition to Attorney General Reno, a number of local officials will be in attendance. These include Mr. Leland Brendsel, Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, (Freddie Mac), a longtime supporter of the city's adoption program. A reception will follow at approximately 11:00 a.m. in the hall outside the courtroom.

This annual event, which calls attention to the adoption process and the many children who need a home, takes place during National Adoption Month.

Media wishing to cover the Adoption Day program should report to the main entrance of the D.C. Courthouse no later than 9:30 a.m. There will be a single live camera covering the ceremony. This camera will transmit the ceremony to a distribution amp through which interested parties may pick up the feed for their own transmission. Media persons having questions regarding the single line feed should call Jody Beck at 885-4270. At the reception following the ceremony, a special area in the hall will be set aside for any participants who wish to speak to the media.



District of Columbia Courts
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 1991

Contact: Anne P. Stygles
Public Information Specialist
District of Columbia Courts
(202) 879-1219

**THE HONORABLE SHARON PRATT DIXON TO BE A GUEST
AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL ADOPTION DAY IN SUPERIOR COURT
ON NOVEMBER 26, 1991**

Superior Court of the District of Columbia Chief Judge Fred B. Ugast announced today that the Honorable Sharon Pratt Dixon, Mayor of Washington, D.C., will be a guest at the Superior Court's Fifth Annual Adoption Day in Court on November 26, 1991. This year it is expected that eight children will be adopted into families.

The Honorable Geoffrey M. Alprin and the Honorable Susan R. Winfield, Presiding and Deputy Presiding Judges, respectively, of the Family Division will preside at an adoption ceremony at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 301, followed by adoption hearings in the judges' chambers for the eight families. A reception will follow at approximately 3:45 p.m. in Room 3100.

This annual event, which calls attention to the adoption process and the many children who need a home, takes place during National Adoption Month as proclaimed by President Bush.

Media wishing to cover the Adoption Day program should report to the main entrance of the D.C. Courthouse no later than 1:50 p.m. No cameras will be allowed in the courtroom, but they will be allowed in the judges' chambers to cover the adoption hearings.

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**ELEVENTH ANNUAL ADOPTION DAY CEREMONY REMARKS
CHIEF JUDGE EUGENE N. HAMILTON
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
NOVEMBER 25, 1997**

Good morning, and welcome to the eleventh annual Adoption Day Ceremony in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

This year, we have a record sixteen families adopting children. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I am sure that today's sixteen families and their children are thankful for having found each other at long last. The families are thankful for having a child or children to bring happiness into their lives, and the children are thankful for families who will nurture them, and provide them with love, security, stability, and support.

November is National Adoption Month, and this month has brought about national adoption legislation for which those of us involved in the issue of adoption are thankful. A week and a half ago, the House of Representatives and the United States Senate passed a measure designed to speed up adoption of abused and neglected children who now spend an average of two years in foster homes. Under the bill, states will be required to begin proceedings to terminate the birth parents' rights after a child has spent 15 months in foster care, almost instantly if a child has been abused. State officials and courts will still make the daily decisions about when a child should be removed from a home, and whether a child should be put up for adoption. But the bill should, in the long run, reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care.

The measure was signed into law last week by President Clinton, to whom we may be also be thankful for his efforts to double the number of adoptions in the United States by the year 2,002.

As the theme of our Ceremony notes, adoption is "The Loving Choice." Individuals or couples choose to open their hearts and homes to children who need love, affection and caring. Often they select older children to adopt, or children with special needs.

Adoption has become more common place. Over three million children have been adopted in the United States in the past 30 years. And according to a study published last year by the Search Institute in Minnesota, adopted children are well integrated into their families, and are highly attached to their adoptive parents.

What makes the study significant is that it details the characteristics of successful adoptive families: warmth, affection, dedication to parenting, open communication, and open communication about adoption.

There are many children in the District of Columbia who need adoptive families such as those who are with us today. When we have this annual event, we not only celebrate new beginnings and the formation of new families, but we also encourage everyone in the District of Columbia who is able, to make "The Loving Choice" and adopt a child or children. Having been a foster and adoptive parent myself, along with my wife, Virginia, I can sincerely say that it is a rewarding and enriching experience for both the parents and the children.

I applaud the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency for their commitment to placing children in loving families, and for their continuing efforts to encourage District of Columbia residents to open their homes and hearts. And I offer my thanks, my congratulations, and my best wishes, to all of the parents and children who chose to share their joy with us in this year's Adoption Day Ceremony. Thank you.

ADOPTION DAY AT THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INCORPORATES PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON'S YEAR 2002 GOALS FOR INCREASING ADOPTIONS NATIONALLY

Twelve years ago, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, in conjunction with the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (which was then in charge of adoptions in the District) launched Adoption Day. The event, which is always held in November, National Adoption Month, and during the week of Thanksgiving, is designed to draw attention to the many District children in foster care who need permanent homes. Many of these children are older children, or children with special needs. During Adoption Day, District families who are in the process of adopting children finalize the adoptions in a public ceremony, which generates a great deal of news media coverage and draws hundreds of people to the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse to witness, and participate in, this glorious and happy pre-Thanksgiving event. The District's Child and Family Services Agency, which is currently the agency responsible for adoptions and foster care in the District, is now the co-sponsor of Adoption Day with the Superior Court.

The event is also in keeping with the national effort to increase adoptions. The theme for this year's 12th Annual Adoption Day speaks to the national effort; it is "Adoption: Creating Loving Families for the Twenty-First Century". In a press release promoting the 1997 Eleventh Annual Adoption Day Ceremony in the Superior Court, Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton noted that in December, 1996, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, the Treasury, Labor and Commerce, and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, to promote efforts to increase the number of adoptions and permanent placements annually, and to move children in foster care more quickly to permanent homes. He pointed out that President Clinton also asked members of his Administration to work with the states, communities and civic leaders to create a plan for doubling the number of adoptions and permanent placements for children to 54,000 by the year 2002.

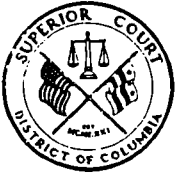
The District of Columbia Courts have been honored in past years to have had such guests as First Lady Barbara Bush, Attorney General Janet Reno, District of Columbia Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, Dr. Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund, and Dr. Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women. These individuals were chosen for their national prominence on family issues and standards that would assist us in bringing attention to our efforts to find every available child a safe, loving and wholesome family.

The reading and presentation of the annual Presidential Adoption Month Proclamation is the launching platform for the day's events.

In his remarks during the Eleventh Annual Adoption Day Ceremony, Chief Judge Hamilton also noted with gratitude that earlier that November, the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States Senate passed a measure designed to speed up adoption of abused and neglected children who at that point were spending an average of two years in foster homes. Under the bill, states are required to begin proceedings to terminate the birth parents' rights after a child has spent 15 months in foster care, almost instantly if a child has been abused. State officials and courts still make the daily decisions about when a child should be removed from a home, and whether a child should be adopted. In the long run, the measure should significantly reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care.

The Superior Court is doing its utmost to meet the national year 2002 goal of increasing adoptions. Due to the impact of the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997, the Superior Court is processing and granting more adoptions than ever before. The granting of these adoptions is dependent on the continued availability of good, strong and loving adoptive family homes. The Superior Court is depending, as always, on the publicity regarding our annual Adoption Day event to continue to get the message out to our community. Since the first Adoption Day in Court, our main focus has always been on "Special Needs Children". We have come to realize that these children are sometimes the hardest to place and adopt because of the challenge they present. Our experience has successfully shown us that there are a significant number of caring individuals who are willing to take on such children even late in the adoptive parents' lives. In 1995, 176 adoption decrees were granted by the Court; by the end of September, 1998, the figure grew to 232, an increase of 32%, and it continues to climb. New adoption case filings also increased during that period. In 1995, new case filings totaled 297; as of the end of September, 1998, new case filings totaled 431, a 45% increase.

At the 12th Annual Adoption Day, which will be held November 24, 1998, at 10 a.m. in the Moultrie I Courthouse third floor atrium, at least 25 good, strong and loving families will publicly adopt children. Those in the news media who have covered the event over the past 12 years, as well as the audiences who have witnessed it, all agree that it is a heartwarming and moving experience that is not to be missed during this time of Thanksgiving.



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
500 INDIANA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2131

EUGENE N. HAMILTON
Chief Judge

DUANE B. DELANEY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court

DISCLAIMER

H. EDWARD RICKS
Director
FAMILY DIVISION

FILMORE A. LUCAS, JR.
Deputy Director
FAMILY DIVISION

The attached listing of prospective participants in the Adoption Day in Court, 1998 Program, is provided for the sole purpose of demonstrating the types of adoptions that are being considered for inclusion. This information is, at this time, considered to be confidential and not to be released to anyone without permission of the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Eugene N. Hamilton. This "For Your Eyes Only" document is considered to be a working document and subject to change by decision of the Chief Judge prior to its inclusion in the Adoption Day in Court Program.

November 5, 1998

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Edward Ricks", is written over a horizontal line.

H. Edward Ricks
Director
Family Division

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. list	re List of Recommended Adoptive Parents and Adoptions for Adoption Day Program (9 pages)	11/05/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Month - 1998

2014-0536-S

kc1445

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

WHITE HOUSE EVENT TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH November 24, 1998

Event Description: Celebration of National Adoption Month with two components: (1) hosting for the first time at the White House the D.C. Adoption Day ceremony, in which D.C. makes final a large group of adoptions to celebrate and promote adoption; and (2) to mark one-year since the signing of the Adoption and Safe Families Act and make a policy announcement (Registry announcement still under discussion/development with HHS).

Possible Speaking/Stage Components to Event:

- (1) The President and the First Lady
- (2) D.C. Component: (1) D.C. Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton brief remarks and ceremonial finalization of 25 adoptions of D.C. families; (2) Mayor-elect Anthony Williams (himself adopted from foster care); and (3) a new parent or adoptive child introducing POTUS.
- (3) On Stage: Dave Thomas, Founder of Wendy's Corp. and the Dave Thomas Foundation on Adoption; Sec. Shalala; D.C Adoptive Family.

Audience List:

- (1) 25 Families from the District of Columbia who are participating in the 1998 D.C. Adoption Day ceremonial proceedings. Total # TBD, roughly 65 (Families will include only those involved in the immediate adoption (*i.e.* single parent and child or two parents and child). Court will provide DOB and SSN of families. *Contact: Rona Beck*
- (2) D.C. judicial and child welfare community. Total # TBD, roughly 30. *Contact: Beck*
- (3) Adoption 2002 1998 award recipients (#TBD) *Contact: Williams/Parker, HHS*
- (4) National advocacy community (balance of room capacity, roughly 50) *Contact: HHS/ Wendy's Foundation on Adoption*
- (5) Congressional and Cabinet (HHS) participation.

Paper to Develop:

- One-pager on announcement and D.C. Adoption Day ceremony
- Profiles of families as appropriate (court to provide)
- Updated accomplishments piece/1 year since ASFA (HHS to draft)
- Remarks (need to sketch for Laura)

Contacts Needed: (1) contact for Court to facilitate a satellite feed of ceremony into court atrium for court community/family viewing; (2) press contact for court release; (3) contact for Foundation on reception; (3) WH Adoption Month proclamations to hand out.