



## Joint Proclamation

**WHEREAS;** Whatcom County recognizes the importance of helping children find permanent, safe and loving families through adoption; and

**WHEREAS;** more than 400,000 children in the United States foster care system are waiting to be adopted; and

**WHEREAS;** 8,796 children in Washington state are in foster care, and of those, 1,556 children under age 18 are legally free to be adopted; and

**WHEREAS;** outreach to adoptive families has been identified as a critical step in moving children more quickly out of foster care and into loving, permanent homes; and

**WHEREAS;** to help these children find new homes, the Whatcom County Superior Court on November 17, 2017 will celebrate adoptions and the parents who welcome these children into their families;

**WHEREAS;** this effort, along with similar celebrations across the country, will offer children a chance to live with stable and loving families and encourage other adults to consider making a powerful difference in the life of a child through adoption;

**NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE,** Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 17, 2017 to be

### ADOPTION DAY

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County, and in doing so, we encourage all citizens to join in the national effort to raise awareness of the importance of adoption for foster children and all children needing safe, loving families.

Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Linville".

Kelli Linville, Mayor  
City of Bellingham



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Louws".

Jack Louws, County Executive  
County of Whatcom

