NH Department of Health and Human Services 129 Pleasant Street – Hugh Gallen State Office Park Concord, NH 03301

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 14, 2018 **FOR MORE INFORMATION** Public Information Office 603-271-9389 or pio@dhhs.nh.gov

In Honor of National Adoption Month, Governor Sununu, DHHS and DCYF Officials Will Celebrate Adoptive Parents at NH State House on November 15th

Concord, NH – From October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018, 215 New Hampshire children found forever families through adoption, more than doubling last year's number of 107. In recognition of November as National Adoption Month, the NH Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) will celebrate New Hampshire's adopted children and their families at an event at the State House at 2:00 pm on November 15th.

"Adoption is a wonderful gift that allows for so many children to find loving and caring homes with adoptive parents," said Governor Chris Sununu. "Adoption Awareness Day in New Hampshire is a great occasion to celebrate those new families and an opportunity to raise awareness for those that are currently going through the adoption process."

"There is a growing need for families willing to open their hearts and homes to children through adoption," said DHHS Commissioner Jeffrey A. Meyers. "Choosing build a family through adoption requires an extraordinary amount of time, energy and commitment, but the end result is a rewarding, life-changing experience for both the parent and the child."

Governor Christopher T. Sununu will deliver a proclamation on the importance of finding permanency. Scheduled to speak are Commissioner Meyers, DCYF Director Joseph E. Ribsam, and adoptive parents who will share their personal experience.

Each November, <u>National Adoption Month</u> brings awareness to the need for permanent families for children and youth in the foster care system. This year's theme, "In their Own Words: Lifting up Youth Voices," focuses on the stories and experiences of older children and teens as they seek stable family support and secure lifelong connections. For more information on adoption resources, please visit <u>https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/adoption/index.htm</u>.

A Celebration of NH's Adoptive Families

Hosted by the NH Department of Health and Human Services' Division for Children, Youth and Families Thursday, November 15, 2018 2:00 PM Executive Council Chambers

NH State House 107 North Main St, Concord, NH *The event is open to the public and the media.*

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