



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FAMILY REUNIFICATION CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, keeping Florida families together is an important goal; and

WHEREAS, 9,134 children in Florida were reunified with parents from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, reunification with parents is the preference for helping children achieve normalcy and permanency, according to Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the court shall return the child to the custody of parents at any time it determines they have substantially complied with their case plan; and

WHEREAS, parents must commit to work to successfully complete case plans in order to gain back custody of their children; and

WHEREAS, local communities, service providers, foster parents and advocates work together to strengthen and support families by providing resources, treatment and education so parents are able to safely raise their children; and

WHEREAS, expanding the continuum and integration of services for children, youth and adults throughout Florida has contributed to family reunifications; and

WHEREAS, communities across Florida in 2011 will host events where parents who have achieved and sustained reunification with their children will be honored and presented with awards for their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Family Reunification Celebrations from Mother's Day through Father's Day are observances to praise mothers and fathers for expressing love and commitment to their sons and daughters by bringing their families back together to ensure safety, well-being and permanency for the children, therefore it is fitting and proper that we acknowledge this message being sent by community agencies and service providers, advocates and coalitions for children, and the Department of Children and Families during this special period.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 8-June 19, 2011 as a time for *Family Reunification Celebration* in the State of Florida.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 6th day of May, in the year two thousand eleven.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

Governor