



RANDOLPH COUNTY

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RANDOLPH COUNTY DSS PRESS RELEASE: November 2016

“November is Adoption Awareness Month”

November is *National Adoption Awareness Month*. The Children's Bureau, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launches activities every November to help build awareness for the need of adoption throughout the nation. Across the nation as of September 30, 2015 there were over 400 thousand children in foster care and over 100 thousand of those were free for adoption. Randolph County Department of Social Services (DSS) currently has 100 children in foster care.

While all adoption related issues are important, the particular focus for DSS during November is adoption of the children in foster care that are free for adoption. Over the course of a year, some of the children in foster care will be reunited with their families and a few will become adults and move on independently with their lives. However, each year there are foster children that will not be able to go back to their birth family. Last fiscal year in Randolph County, 21 children in foster care found new permanent families through adoption. DSS is committed to the principle that every child deserves a "forever family" and believes that a safe, permanent, and nurturing home can be found for any child who needs one. Recruitment efforts are currently underway to find forever families for the children in foster care who are legally free for adoption; plus those that will become free within the next year. Although children free for adoption can be of any age, almost half of the 21 children adopted last year were under the age of six.

Randolph County DSS offers a training course called: *Trauma Informed Parenting for Safety and Permanence- Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting* (TIPS-MAPP) twice per year for anyone who is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent. The purpose of the TIPS-MAPP course is to provide information about foster care, adoption, and the children that we serve so participants can make an informed decision about whether to become licensed to foster and/or adopt. The fall TIPS-MAPP classes are wrapping up and the next available TIPS-MAPP course will be held in the spring of 2017.

To promote awareness and the need for foster and adoptive homes, Randolph County DSS will have recruitment and informational displays at the Archdale, Asheboro, Randleman, and Ramseur public libraries during the month of November. Informational posters will also be placed at various locations around the county. North Ridge Church will be hosting a meal to honor currently licensed foster and adoptive families. Informational materials are also available as church bulletin inserts or for posting in service organizations or businesses. Anyone interested in setting up a display should call 336-683-8036.

Want to make a difference in a child's life by becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent? Contact a Foster Care Licensing Social Worker at your local DSS. In Randolph County call 336-683-8062 today!

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