

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER
TO BE COURT ADOPTION
AND PERMANENCY MONTH**

WHEREAS, every child deserves a legally permanent home, where they are loved and nurtured in a safe, structured environment. Every child deserves to belong in a family; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate form of legal permanency is with one's biological parents. When this is not possible, adoption by a relative or appropriate foster/adoptive parent is the next best thing; and

WHEREAS, in California, in the year 2003, there were over 493,000 children under the age of 18 with allegations of being abused or neglected; in Santa Barbara County, there were approximately 4,250 allegations of abuse or neglect in the year 2003. The median length of stay for California children in all types of care is 17 months. The median length of stay for Santa Barbara County Children is 14 months; and

WHEREAS, this is a recorded downward change from previous years for which Child Welfare Services and the Adoption unit applaud the multitude of collaborative partnerships that ensue health and safety and Permanency for children and families of this county;

WHEREAS, it is held to be crucial that courts and communities take active steps to reduce the time children spend in foster care;

WHEREAS, in 1999, and prompted by the successes of the Adoption Saturday program in Los Angeles, the Judicial Council, the State Legislature and the Governor passed resolutions declaring November to be **COURT ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY MONTH**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara recognizes November 2004 as **COURT ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY MONTH**, in recognition of our County's children in the process of being adopted or needing adoptive homes, of the foster/adoptive parents who have adopted or are waiting to adopt children, and the tireless efforts of our County employees in the Juvenile Court system and Child Welfare Services to facilitate such adoptions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this twenty-third day of November, two thousand and four, by a unanimous vote of all members present.