



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**President Nez and Vice President Lizer
proclaim "Navajo Nation Adoption Awareness Month"**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Sunday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed a proclamation to recognize the month of November as the "Navajo Nation Adoption Awareness Month" to raise awareness that there are hundreds of Navajo children who receive foster care services while waiting to be adopted by a loving family.

The proclamation states that there is a critical need to increase awareness regarding the number of Navajo children and teens in need of a permanent home on the Navajo Nation. Many Navajo youths will "age-out" of the foster care system before they can find a forever home.

"Every Navajo child deserves a stable, loving, forever family. As Diné, our families are built on the foundation of kinship, compassion, support, and unconditional love, and we have to offer those values to every Navajo child. We are all family, and we need to be there for children who don't have parents. Navajo children and youth in foster care deserve every happiness and joy experienced by those not in foster care. Our Navajo children are our strength and future, and should be in a home full of love, support, and trust," said President Nez.

"We also extend our appreciation to the Navajo families who opened their homes and hearts to adopt a child on the Navajo Nation. Thank you for making a meaningful and lasting difference in our children's lives," added President Nez.

The proclamation further states, "We recognize, and wholeheartedly embrace, the spirit that every child matters. We celebrate the parent(s) who have invited a child-in-need into their hearts and their homes. We express our profound appreciation for all who make adoption possible, including those administrative professionals, caseworkers, and countless others."

"Many Navajo children are waiting for their forever families. The bond that links a true family is not one of blood but of kinship, respect, and joy in each other's life. As we wait for our children to find forever homes, let's continue to pray for their health, self-esteem, and confidence," said Vice President Lizer.

The proclamation encourages Navajo citizens to observe the month of November with appropriate awareness activities and "go the extra mile" by assisting adoptive families and Navajo children in need of a permanent and caring family.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2020 AS NAVAJO NATION ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the Diné family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, each year, there are hundreds of Navajo children who receive foster care services while awaiting to be adopted. Many older youths will "age-out" of the foster care system before they are able to find a forever home; and

WHEREAS, there is a demonstrated need to increase awareness regarding the number of Navajo children and teens in need of a permanent home on the Navajo Nation, the greater parts of Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and other parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, children and youth in foster care deserve every happiness and joy experienced by those children not in foster care- unconditional love, support, stability, and trust. Children grow to become their best selves when they are surrounded by supportive families; and

WHEREAS, families who open their homes and hearts to children make meaningful and lasting differences in the lives of some of the most vulnerable young people in our communities; and

WHEREAS, we recognize, and wholeheartedly embrace, the spirit that every child matters. We celebrate the parent(s) who have invited a child-in-need into their hearts and into their homes. We express our profound appreciation for all who make adoption possible including those administrative professionals, case workers, and countless others.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and I, MYRON LIZER, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim November 2020 is "NAVAJO NATION ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH" and encourage the citizens of the Navajo Nation to observe this month with appropriate awareness activities and to "go the extra mile" by assisting adoptive families, and Diné children in need of a permanent and caring family.

PROCLAIMED THIS 1ST DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION