



DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

November 28, 2007

Dear Friends,

More than 100,000 children in America's foster care system are waiting for adoptive families. The number is staggering, and yet we know that too many potential adoptive parents either self-select out of a process they determine to have insurmountable barriers, or are actively denied access to the very system designed to assure a safe, loving and permanent home for *every* child in need.

The All Children – All Families Initiative production of *Promising Practices in Adoption and Foster Care: A Comprehensive Guide* fills a critical need by encouraging an open discussion of the issues of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) cultural competence and training; sharing effective leadership strategies and organizational policies; and modeling evidence-based front line practice. Without an aggressive movement toward policy and practice that knowingly determines suitability for adoption based on the best interests of the child and eliminates all forms of discrimination, including marital status and sexual orientation, children and parents alike will continue to wait for families.

The *Guide* is a welcome tool that will be an asset to every organization working to place America's children. We look forward to hearing how it is both received and embedded into child welfare training efforts across the nation.

Sincerely,

Rita L. Soronen
Executive Director