



PRESS RELEASE

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CHILDNET CELEBRATES NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY Local Single Mother Expands Family Through Adoption

PLANTATION, FL – Monique Gray fondly remembers the moment when she and her five biological children first saw Latravis, age 7 and Eric, age 6. They were huddled around the family computer viewing photos of local children available for adoption on The Heart Gallery of Broward County's website. A beautiful photo of the brothers immediately caught the attention of Gray's younger children and they urged their mother to find out more information about the boys. That was in August 2008. Fifteen months later, Eric and Latravis will officially become a member of the Gray family on November 21st, National Adoption Day.

When Monique contacted ChildNet's adoption team about Latravis and Eric there was already another family pursuing adoption. "Although I was disappointed I was not deterred from adopting and continued to complete the requirements," remembers Monique. Her determination paid off when months later she received a call from Lanecia Radcliff, ChildNet's Adoption Homefinder, about the boys' availability. "Monique was beaming with the same enthusiasm and interest as when she had first contacted me," recalls Lanecia. "It was no surprise that the brothers and Ms. Gray's family blended so well. They are a perfect match."

The Grays' adoption tale shares a common thread that is evident in the stories of the twenty-one other families that will finalize their adoption on National Adoption Day. "Love is the common thread that links these families," said Theresa Kennedy, Director of Permanency. "They truly love these children and want to be a permanent part of their lives." Eric and Latravis, along with more than 30 other children, will get a second chance at a forever family on November 21st at the Broward County Courthouse. Since ChildNet's inception in 2003, the Community Based Care lead agency has found permanent, loving homes for more than 1,000 Broward County children in foster care. However, there are still 79 local foster children waiting for a family to call their own. For more information about adopting, please call (954) 414-6001 or visit www.childnet.us.

ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization selected by the state through a competitive process to serve as the local Community Based Care lead agency. As the lead agency, ChildNet manages the local system of services and supports for Broward's abused, abandoned and neglected children and their caregivers. This system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support. For more information on ChildNet, visit the web site at www.ChildNet.us or call (954) 414-6000.

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