

The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

November 19, 2018

Opinion

Point of View: National Adoption Month an opportunity for community to bridge Election Day divide



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Larry Rein, CEO and president of ChilNet of Palm Beach County.

No matter how you slice it, politics is, to some degree, divisive. While the depth of this division and the rhetoric it creates will vary from election to election, there will always be differing opinions and, with these differing opinions, the potential for conflict and disagreement.

On the heels of this particular election cycle, we can all benefit from a reason to focus on our common bonds. As Americans, nothing binds us closer than the responsibility we have to those future generations who will walk the paths we are currently creating with our individual and collective actions. No matter your views on the economy or constitutional amendments, we can all agree that we have a duty to do everything in our power to ensure the success of our children.

November is National Adoption Month, a month in which we are all asked to focus on that which is most central to the success of our children — the family. The love, safety and stability provided by the embrace of a family is the foundation of that success, and something all children deserve. There are currently tens of thousands of children nationwide, and hundreds of children right here in South Florida, who are at risk of never knowing what it means to have a permanent family. These are children of all ages, races, genders and economic backgrounds who have experienced abuse, abandonment and neglect and who now turn to us to ensure their well-being.

National Adoption Month challenges each of us to leave our places on the left and on the right and to meet in the middle in support of the most vulnerable among us. I urge each of you to look within yourself, to consider your personal circumstances and situations and to commit to supporting these children, either by becoming an adoptive parent yourself or by helping to raise awareness of the need for additional adoptive parents.

Sign up for The Palm Beach Post FREE weekly Opinion newsletter: Text Opinion to 444999

Regardless if by design or by coincidence, the alignment of National Adoption Month and Election Day is truly fortuitous. This alignment provides us with the opportunity to remember: That it is not our political positions that define us, but rather our compassion for others. That our differences are, when compared to our shared values, inconsequential. And that our success as a people demands our cooperative support behind this, a cause of the greatest importance.

Join with me in uniting behind our children-- this month and every month.

LARRY REIN, WEST PALM BEACH

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/opinion/20181119/point-of-view-national-adoption-month-opportunity-for-community-to-bridge-election-day-divide>