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National Foster Care Month Draws Attention to Children Awaiting Families

May 1, 2014 – Alexandria, VA – This May, National Council For Adoption (NCFA) celebrates National Foster Care Month with a new engagement program for prospective parents as part of its national public awareness campaign Families For All campaign. Since 2008, Families For All has encouraged Americans to become involved in the life of a child in foster care through mentoring, fostering, or adoption. The program’s website, FamiliesForAll.org, is continually expanding with new information and resources, and Families For All public service announcements and social media outreach capture the interest of new prospective parents, mentors, or volunteers.

According to the most recent reports from the United States Children’s Bureau, there are nearly 400,000 children currently in foster care. While the primary goal of foster care is to ultimately reunite children with their birth parents or extended kin, 102,000 of these children in foster care are waiting for a family to call their own.

“During National Foster Care Month, our attention turns to the children who have experienced loss, trauma, or neglect and are now needing the love and permanency of a family. We are committed to recruiting prospective foster and adoptive parents who are willing and able to fill that void,” says National Council For Adoption president and CEO Chuck Johnson. Only one in every 28 prospective adoptive parents who contact child welfare agencies actually adopts a child out of foster care.

NCFA’s new Parent Engagement Advocate seeks to equip prospective adoptive parents with the resources they need to not only navigate the complex foster care system without becoming discouraged, but also to one day successfully parent a child who has spent time in foster care. Additionally, NCFA is spearheading a three-year research project to shadow prospective parents and determine why some families that start the foster or adoption process remain committed while others leave. With proper support, these prospective parents will be able to provide the loving home that these children need and deserve.

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Founded in 1980, National Council For Adoption (NCFA) is a global adoption advocacy nonprofit that promotes a culture of adoption through education, research, legislative action, and collaboration. As the
authoritative voice for adoption, NCFA’s areas of focus include domestic infant adoption, adoption and permanency outcomes for youth in foster care, and intercountry adoption. Passionately committed to the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a nurturing, permanent family, NCFA serves children, birthparents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and adoption professionals. In addition, we work tirelessly to educate U.S. and foreign government officials and policymakers, members of the media, and all those in the general public with an interest in adoption.

More information is available on our website, www.AdoptionCouncil.org.