

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VIRGINIA ADOPTS: CAMPAIGN FOR 1000

SUFFOLK, VA (July 12, 2013) The Suffolk Department of Social Services is encouraging parents and families interested in foster care adoption to attend a "Virginia Adopts: Campaign for 1000" Regional Kick-Off event for educational information on how to become adoptive parents.

The campaign is an initiative to match 1,000 children currently in foster care with adoptive families. Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell launched the statewide campaign on May 17 from the steps of the Governor's Mansion during Virginia's Foster Care Month. The governor also announced a social media campaign, "100 days, 100 kids," which will feature the story of a Virginian foster child awaiting adoption each day for 100 days.

Governor McDonnell noted, "Of the four thousand children in Virginia's foster care system, about one thousand children are ready for, and eagerly awaiting, adoption. Each of these children deserves a secure, stable home environment. Together, we can help these children find loving families and make Virginia a better place."

The Regional Kick -Off events are designed to further promote the Campaign for 1,000 and highlight some of the children across the Commonwealth who are in need of a forever family. For more information on these events including registration, please visit www.virginiaadopts.virginia.gov/events.cfm.

The East Regional Kick-Off Event will be held on Monday, July 22 at the Westin Virginia Beach Town Center, 4535 Commerce Street, in Virginia Beach from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Denise Goodman, a nationally known Casey Consultant. Don Roberts will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. You must be registered to attend.

For more information about the "Campaign for 1,000" or to view the Governor's video message, visit <http://www.virginiaadopts.virginia.gov/>. To contact the Suffolk Department of Social Services, call 757-514-7450.

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