STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) was established in 1964 as the nation's first cabinet-level state child welfare agency, serving to unify child, general assistance rehabilitation and youth services that previously operated independently among a variety of state and local organizations; and,

WHEREAS, DCFS is committed to acting in the best interest of every child it serves by helping families increase their ability to provide a safe environment for their children and by strengthening families who are at risk of abuse or neglect; and,

WHEREAS, over the last decade, DCFS has helped over 17,000 Illinois children find permanent, loving homes though adoption and reunified over 21,000 children with their birth families; and,

WHEREAS, DCFS provides a temporary safe haven for approximately 15,000 children through foster care; and,

WHEREAS, each year the department provides services to 60,000 families, including intact services to keep families together, early childhood services to infants and toddlers and services to teens as they prepare for adulthood; and,

WHEREAS, DCFS continues to be a national leader in the child welfare field; and,

WHEREAS, DCFS and its partners vow to protect children and support families every day until neglect and abuse no longer exist; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do proclaim June 17, 2014 as the **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES** in Illinois, and encourage citizens statewide to join in celebrating the department's national reputation and unwavering commitment to keeping children safe and families strong.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this _____SIXTEENTH_____ *day of* _____JUNE_____ *, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and* _____FOURTEEN_____ *, and of the State of Illinois, one hundred and* _____NINETY-SIXTH_____ *.*

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR