



Nathan Deal, Governor

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## GEORGIA WEDNESDAY'S CHILD PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH FAITH COMMUNITY TO HEIGHTEN ADOPTION AWARENESS

**October 18, 2013 – Atlanta, GA** – The Georgia Wednesday's Child program and The Interfaith Children's Movement (ICM) will join together with faith leaders from across the state to kick-off a partnership on heightening the awareness of the need for more adoptive families. *ICM will host its' 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Call to Action" Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, October 23, 2013, at 7:30 a.m., at The Temple, located at 1589 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309.*

The prayer breakfast is ICM's signature annual event that brings together hundreds of children's advocates from Georgia's interfaith community (including faith leaders, educators, community leaders, elected and civil service officials). This year's keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams, Interim Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Pastor Emerita of Morningside Presbyterian Church and Co-Founder of Higher Ground.

The theme for the Prayer Breakfast is "Create a Better Tomorrow for All Children Today." Each year, this event focuses on the pressing issues for Georgia's children, such as the need for loving families and safe and healthy homes for the thousands of children in foster care.

Every day children are abused, abandoned and neglected. Through no fault of their own, many end up in foster care and eventually are made available for adoption. These children often move three or more times, are frequently separated from siblings, and can wait five years or more for an adoptive family.

At any given time in the state of Georgia, there are 7,743 kids in foster care. Of those 7,743, there are approximately 250 kids without an identified resource. Nationally, one in five will turn eighteen or twenty one and leave the system without a family. Today, more than 100,000 children wait in U.S. foster care for loving, permanent families.

To learn more about how to become an adoptive parent, call 1-866-210-KIDS (5437). To view waiting children visit, [www.wednesdayschildga.com](http://www.wednesdayschildga.com).

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**About The Interfaith Children's Movement (ICM)**

ICM was founded in 2001 by individuals who shared the philosophy that people of all faiths can, and must, work together -- across boundaries of religious institutions and spiritual practices -- to improve the lives and well-being of all children. Therefore, ICM advocates on behalf of Georgia's children at the policy level and at the services level by engaging all faith communities in calling for justice and servicing the needs of children throughout the state.

**About Wednesday's Child (WC) – Georgia**

Wednesday's Child (WC) - Georgia is a partnership of the Freddie Mac Foundation, WAGA Fox 5 TV - Atlanta, and the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Permanency Unit. An award winning program with a proven track record of success is part of the Freddie Mac Foundation's national campaign to increase the number of adoptions of children in foster care.

The program started in Washington DC in 1992 and has expanded to five additional major cities including Atlanta. Each Wednesday, a child who is waiting to be adopted is profiled on the local evening news. During the Wednesday's Child segment, viewers learn about a particular child's hopes, dreams and needs. Wednesday's Child puts a face on foster care and adoption that is hard to ignore and makes the children's plight real. Through this program, many children have found loving, permanent homes. The youth featured on Wednesday's Child are those in the most urgent need of a family. Many of these children are over the age of eight and have been in the foster care system for some time and desperately need a permanent place to call home.