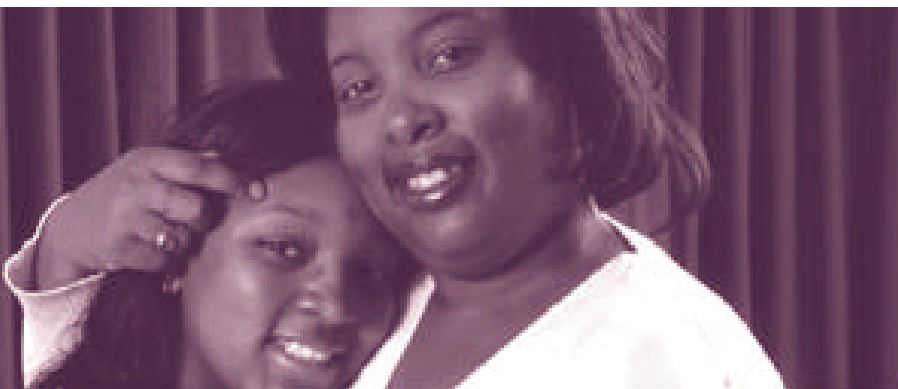


A Desire to
LOVE

A Reason to
ADOPT



Give An Older African-American Child A Family

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Statistics Reveal Older African-Americans More Likely to Age-Out from Foster Care *Local Campaign Makes Plea to Give An Older Child A Family*

SILVER SPRING, MD (**March 8, 2004**) – Project “If Not Us,” an initiative designed to find adoptive homes for older African-American children, is sending out an all-points bulletin to the District of Columbia: Give an older African-American child a family before it’s too late!

Nationally, there are over a half million children in foster care today, and nearly 126,000 of these children are waiting to be adopted. Almost half of the waiting children are African-Americans and more than half of the African-American children are over the age of ten. African-American children remain in the foster care system longer than their Caucasian counterparts.

“We are making an urgent appeal to individuals and families living in our region to consider formally adopting an older African-American child,” says Director of Project “If Not Us,” Sabrena McAllister. “Far too many older African-American children in our area are waiting to be part of a permanent family. Adopting older children into families is critical to their future.”

Every year more than 20,000 older children who reside in foster care are not adopted and they “age-out” of the system to fend for themselves, according to a study conducted by the State of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin in June 2000.

During the first few years of “aging-out”:

- One in four of these children become homeless;
- Roughly half are unemployed;
- Only half graduate from high school;
- 32 percent rely on public assistance;
- 27 percent of males and 10 percent of females will become incarcerated;
- And among young women, six out of ten become pregnant without the ability to take care of their unborn child.

The number of older African-American children who age-out of the foster care system continues to rise each year.

Adoptions Together is a private, nonprofit child placement agency licensed by the State of Maryland and District of Columbia. Project “If Not Us” is an initiative of Adoptions Together. To learn more about adopting an older African-American child, call Adoptions Together at 301-439-2900 and ask for an “If Not Us” team member.

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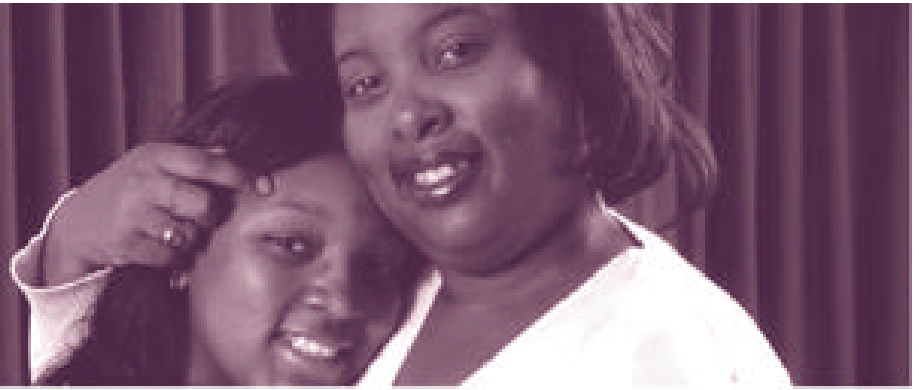
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This publication was made possible by grant number 90-CO-0967 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Local Campaign Makes Plea to Give An Older Child A Family

SILVER SPRING, MD (March 8, 2004) – Project “If Not Us,” an initiative designed to find adoptive homes for older African-American children, is sending out an all-points bulletin to Montgomery County: Give an older African-American child a family before it’s too late!

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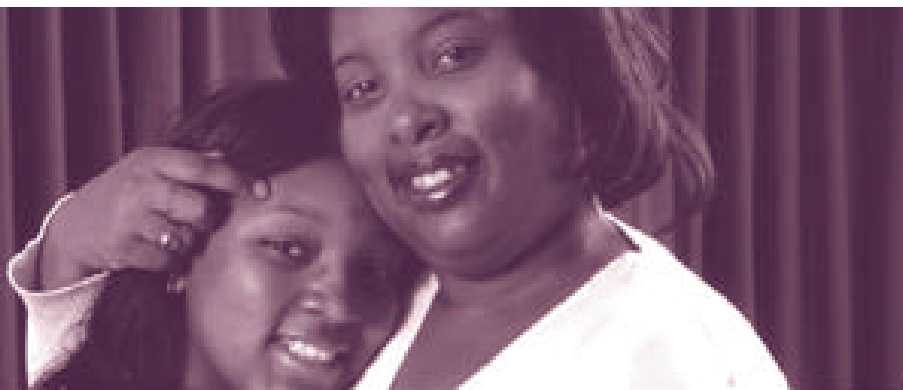
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SILVER SPRING, MD (March 8, 2004) – Project “If Not Us,” an initiative designed to find adoptive homes for older African-American children, is sending out an all-points bulletin to Prince George’s County: Give an older African-American child a family before it’s too late!

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