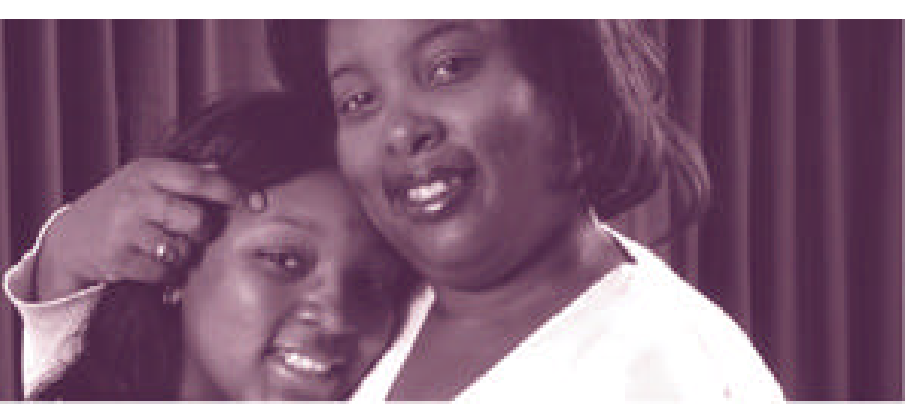


A Desire to
LOVE

A Reason to
ADOPT



Give An Older African-American Child A Family

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Robert E. Blount Jr.
Sahara Communications Inc.
(410) 576-7245, ext. 201
sharley@saharainc.net

FLOW Foundation, Inc.
(202) 409-7240
Corey@FLOWInsider.com
www.FLOWFoundation.org

Project "If Not Us" Joins With the Flow Foundation In Celebration of Black History Month

Events to call attention to the need to adopt older African-American Children

SILVER SPRING, MD (**January 26, 2004**) – Project "If Not Us" has joined with the Flow Foundation in commemoration of Black History Month, and at the same time, calling attention to the need for African-Americans to adopt older children from the foster care system.

Project "If Not Us" is designed to find adoptive homes for older African-American children. The Flow Foundation is a 501(c)(3) entity that channels resources towards programs for youth and community development, scholarships, social welfare and cultural/artistic development.

The FLOW Foundation, Inc. will unveil its first annual Black History Month Film & Discussion series in Washington, DC at Visions Cinema Bar Noir, located at 1927 Florida Avenue, NW. The series will take place each Thursday of February 2004 and will feature notable filmmakers, Academy Award recipients, historians, celebrities, actors, American heroes, vendors and groups that will share their varied experiences and contributions with attendees from throughout the DC metropolitan area. Independent and historic films, documentaries and shorts will be included as well as a special series of meet and greets for the public each Friday at the Republic Gardens, 1355 U Street, NW.

"While the United States honor the many contributions African-Americans have made to this country, we want to take the opportunity to focus on the need for African-Americans to adopt older children from the foster care system," says Sabrena McAllister, director of Project "If Not Us." "African-Americans have a strong heritage of taking care of children in the community, building on the "it takes a village" concept. Historically, African-Americans practice informal adoption, which means raising relatives, as well as taking care of friends and members of the community. Project "If Not Us" is committed to honoring this historical concept by educating and encouraging more African-Americans to formally adopt older children currently residing within the foster care system," she continues. 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.

-more-



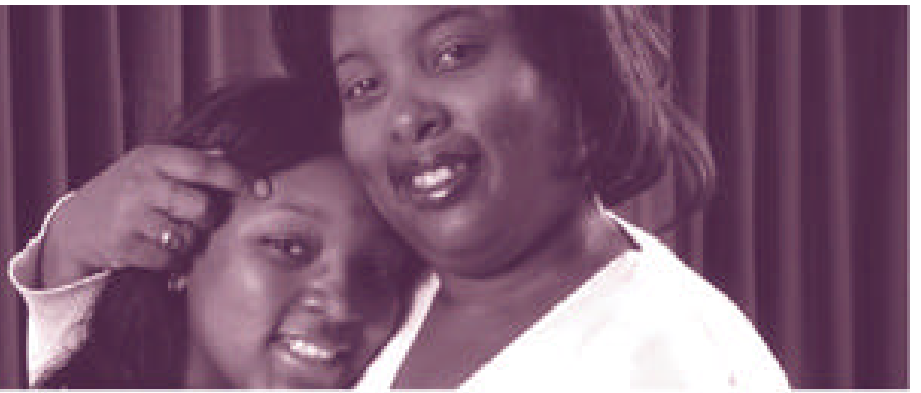
Adoptions Together • Project "If Not Us"
10230 New Hampshire Avenue Suite 200
Silver Spring, MD 20903
Tel: (301) 439-2900 • Fax: (301) 439-9334
Email: IfNotUs@adoptionstogether.org

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“Black History Month is an important time for culture and American history. It is a time to realize helping many aspects of our community through family preservation,” says Corey Jennings, founder and project coordinator of the FLOW Foundation. “Adoption is a critical part of our dream for a stronger America. As we look to honor the legacy and contributions of African-Americans in our history, we can not go without reaching out to help an issue of great concern for the future of the American family.”

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. For more information about the film and discussion series, call the Flow Foundation at 703-768-3755.

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