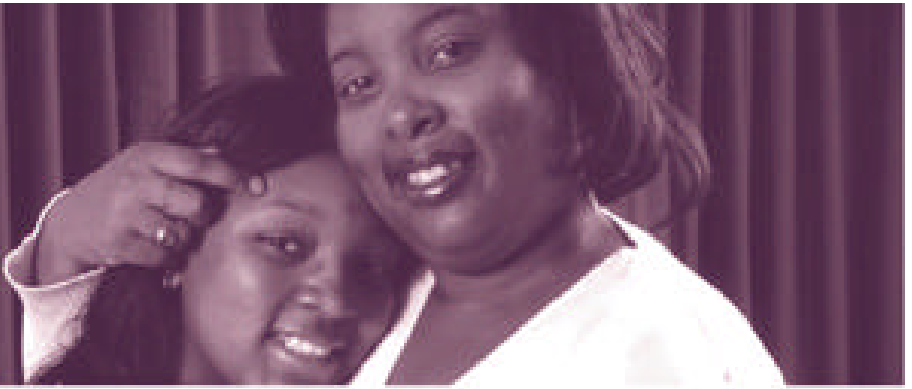


*A Desire to*  
**LOVE**

*A Reason to*  
**ADOPT**



## Give An Older African-American Child A Family

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### INU Study Shows Single African-American Women More Likely to Adopt

SILVER SPRING, MD (**February 26, 2004**) – In a research study conducted by Project “If Not Us” to explore how African-Americans view adoption, it was revealed that single African-American women are more willing to adopt than any other African-American group. Project “If Not Us” is an initiative designed to find adoptive homes for older African-American children.

Research findings uncovered the following:

- African-Americans do adopt. Children in need surpass the number of African-American parents adopting.
- Single African-American women are more willing to adopt than any other African-American group.
- Most African-Americans have been affected by informal adoption, whether it be taking in a loved one into their home or having another relative, or close friend raise their child.
- African-Americans are willing to adopt children of all ages, including older children.
- More African-Americans would adopt if there were a broader support system in place.

The survey was conducted from March 2003 to September 2003 among 600 African-Americans in the Washington, D.C metropolitan area.

“African-Americans have a strong heritage of taking care of children in the community, which builds on the “it takes a village” concept. Historically, African-Americans practiced informal adoption, which meant raising relatives, as well as taking care of friends and members of the community. We honor this historical concept and encourage more African-Americans to formally adopt older children currently residing within the foster care system,” says Director of Project If Not Us, Sabrena McAllister.

Project “If Not Us” has launched a public information campaign to call attention to the need for African-Americans to adopt an older child from the foster care system. The target area of the campaign includes the District of Columbia, Prince George’s County, and Montgomery County. The campaign seeks to influence at least 40 families to adopt an older African-American child.

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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