



Kentucky Personnel Cabinet Office of the Secretary

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**Contact: Crystal Pryor
502-517-6046**



**DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION®**

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

The Commonwealth of Kentucky named one of the Best Adoption Friendly Workplaces

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 1, 2009) – Today, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption announced the Commonwealth of Kentucky ranked 3rd in the Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces Government Category for 2009.

“We are working to create innovative programs and improve strategic services for the employees of this great state,” said Gov. Steve Beshear. “Our adoption program is proof that here in Kentucky we are working hard to meet and exceed employee adoption support standards.”

Each year the foundation ranks the top 100 adoption friendly workplaces and recognizes the top 10 by size, the leaders of each industry and companies that support the cause of adoption and adoptive families in other ways.

Kentucky established an adoption program in November 1998. Since then, the Personnel Cabinet has helped administer financial assistance and support to executive branch state employees for costs directly associated with the adoption of a child. The Adoption Benefit Program provides up to \$5,000 per family for costs related to the adoption of a special needs child and up to \$3,000 per family for any other adoption.

“The Commonwealth is proud to offer such a great incentive to employees who wish to adopt,” said Personnel Cabinet Sec. Nikki Jackson. “Our adoption program helps to enhance customer value and support Kentucky state government as an employer of choice.”

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a nonprofit public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of foster care children in North America. Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy’s and an adopted child, created the foundation in 1992 in support of the vision that every child will have a permanent home and a loving family.

The release of the third annual Best Adoption-Friendly Workplace List helps the foundation increase foster care adoption awareness while celebrating those businesses that support adoptive families. Today, more than 150,000 foster care children are available for adoption in North America – 129,000 of them in the United States. Most will spend nearly four years in the system before they are adopted.

“Every day it is a pleasure to see how our services help Commonwealth couples and families,” said Darlene Stewart, Personnel Cabinet, Adoption Benefit Program Coordinator. “But nothing is greater than the reward of knowing we have helped provide a home for a child.”

Rankings for the Best Adoption-Friendly Workplace List are determined by an analysis of a company’s adoption benefits – financial reimbursement and paid leave – available to employees who adopt. The foundation compiled the results from survey data collected from 753 U.S. employers. *Employee Benefit News*, a SourceMedia publication that is the leading source of information for benefits decision makers, helped extend the survey’s scope even further by inviting readers to participate.

Visit the Personnel Cabinet Web site to learn more about adoption services at <http://personnel.ky.gov/emprel/adoption/>. To view the complete Adoption-Friendly Workplace list, please visit www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org.

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