

For Immediate Release – January 2013

Email: info@adoptuskids.org | Phone: 888-200-4005

AdoptUSKids Names Deborah Motley Caseworker of the Month

(Port Charlotte, Florida) – AdoptUSKids named Deborah Motley, a post adoption case manager with Lutheran Services Florida in Port Charlotte, its January Caseworker of the Month. This award is part of AdoptUSKids' national initiative to celebrate caseworkers for their dedication to children and families.

For her ability to retain families by engaging them on a personal level while comporting herself as a professional, Tracey and Joseph Codd-Lorenz nominated Motley for AdoptUSKids' Caseworker of the Month.

The Codd-Lorenz family, also of Port Charlotte, said Motley supported them, alleviated their fears, and made them feel that no matter how long it took, they could depend on having somebody on their side.

"She just has a way of planting both feet in the ground," Tracey Codd-Lorenz said of Motley. While noting she has met other excellent caseworkers, Motley knew just what to do. "If not for her, we would have tossed the idea [of adopting] aside."

Thousands of foster, adoptive, and kinship families across the U.S. rely on their caseworkers every day to connect them to vital services while offering support and guidance. More than 250,000 children in the U.S. enter the foster care system every year. While more than half of these children will return to their parents, the remainder will stay in the system. Each year more than 20,000 children age out of the foster care without being adopted.

Today there are 401,000 children in foster care with approximately 104,000 of them who are available for adoption.

AdoptUsKids' Project Director Kathy Ledesma said, "Deborah Motley is a shining example of the excellent work that public and private child welfare agency caseworkers do everyday across the United States."

Motley said she is excited to be AdoptUSKids' Caseworker of the Month. She began her career in social work with the state of Florida in 1989, but moved into child welfare in 1998.

"My biggest calling was to do something with children," she said. "Then I got into adoptions, and I found that more gratifying, getting children permanency, making lasting connections with families."

Find out more about Motley and her work in adoption and foster care at <http://adoptuskids.org>.



Together we hold their future

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About AdoptUSKids

AdoptUSKids is a service of the U.S. Children's Bureau and has been in operation since 2002 by the Adoption Exchange Association based out of Baltimore, Md., under a cooperative agreement (grant #90CQ0003). The mission of AdoptUSKids is two-fold: to raise public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families for children in the public child welfare system; and to assist U.S. States, Territories, and Tribes to recruit and retain foster and adoptive families and connect them with children. Find out more about us at <http://www.adoptuskids.org>.

About Lutheran Services Florida

Lutheran Services Florida is a statewide, nonprofit human services agency in Florida dedicated to helping all people in need regardless of religious affiliation, age, or national origin. Headquartered in Tampa, the agency has more than 60 programs located throughout Florida. Since establishing the agency in 1982, nearly 900,000 children and families have received assistance from it. Find out more on their website at <http://www.lsfnet.org>.

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