

# kids these days...

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## A HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

"I'll be home for Christmas," is a sentiment commonly expressed at this time of the year through the music of Bing Crosby in his classic Christmas carol. Thoughts of family and hot chocolate, crackling fires and laughter may come to mind when you hear this...but what if you didn't have a home? Worse yet—what if you were a child and didn't have a home?

The holiday season is just around the corner, and it truly is a special time for many families. I think we can all agree that whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Eid al-Adha or Yule, it is the closeness of those nearest and dearest that makes the celebrating special.

Sometimes in the Christmas madness with the "I wants" and the "I've got to haves" we fail to remember what the season is really supposed to be about – children and family.

Kids these days need the support and identity that can only be found through a stable, nurturing home in which they can develop into the adult that they have the potential to become.

So while some kids are looking for high tech gadgets and others are dying for the latest, greatest thing since sliced bread, it's worth remembering that there are some kids who are just looking for a home. For some children, they would be ecstatic if they woke up on Christmas morning just feeling that they truly belonged somewhere.

So at this time of the year I'd like to remind people of how they might be able to make a huge difference in a child's life through adoption.

Like choosing to have a biological baby, the commitment may at times

seem somewhat overwhelming. But the decision can likewise bring a huge amount of joy and love into a home, along with the tremendous satisfaction that comes in knowing the difference it makes for that child.

Of course, babies are not the only children that need adopting. Often older children remain in the system just because they have not been able to be matched with adoptive parents. They may be entering their teenage years without the security and comfort that a home of their own would bring – which is especially important as they deal with the challenges of adolescence.

We all know what it was like to struggle in forming our own identity while growing up. Imagine how much more difficult that would be when you don't know where you fit in and you don't have a place or a "forever home" and people to connect with permanently.

This month, while you celebrate the season of giving, you might wish to consider the opportunity to welcome a child into your home – and give them one of the greatest gifts of all!

On behalf of North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and to remember that Christmas is truly for kids..... and the kid in all of us!

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Any feedback or comments are welcome and can be sent via email to [david.rideout@gov.ab.ca](mailto:david.rideout@gov.ab.ca)