



news

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Adoption Day unites foster children with permanent families *More than 60 adoptions docketed for Nov. 14 in Denver Juvenile Court*

DENVER, Colo. – Adoption Day will be celebrated in Denver Juvenile Court on Friday, Nov. 14, 2008, with judges and magistrates finalizing the adoption of more than 60 foster children with permanent families. In this fourth year of Denver’s participation in the National Adoption Day program, the occasion will be marked by adoption proceedings throughout the morning at the Denver City and County Building.

“Adoption Day is a wonderful celebration we now look forward to every year,” said Denver Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Karen Ashby. “Our local participation in this national event not only brings families together, it also gives us cause to recognize that there are many other children in foster care waiting to be united with their own new family.”

The Denver event is being coordinated through Denver Juvenile Court and Denver Human Services in conjunction with other local and state child agencies and advocates. Activities will begin at 9:00 a.m. with welcoming remarks by Judge Ashby in the Denver City Council’s chambers on the fourth floor of the Denver City and County Building. Other speakers will include Denver City Council President Jeanne Robb, Denver Human Services manager Patricia Wilson Pheanious and Brian Rimar, an adoptive parent.

Judge D. Brett Woods, Judge Donna Schmalberger, Magistrate Martha Timmers, Magistrate Melanie Gilbert and Magistrate Kathleen Janski are docketed to preside over the day’s adoption proceedings. Adoptions will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Denver Juvenile Court’s first, second and third floor courtrooms.

Colorado is currently home to nearly 800 children waiting for permanent families. Seventy-five of the children are in Denver.

“Today, I can proudly say that more than 60 foster children now have a forever family,” said Patricia Wilson Pheanious, manager of Denver Human Services. “We appreciate the people in the community who want to adopt a child into their home, and we encourage others to call us at 720-810-5139 if they are interested in adoption.”

National Adoption Day, begun in 2000, is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the 114,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. For the last eight years, National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true through the cooperative work of courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies and advocates to finalize adoptions and find permanent, loving homes for children in foster care.

National Adoption Day is celebrated every year in November. In 2006, for the first time, National Adoption Day was celebrated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. That year, more than 250 events were held throughout the country to finalize the adoptions of more than 3,300 children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt.

Editor's Note: For additional information please contact Barbara Bosley, Family Court Facilitator, Denver Juvenile Court, 1437 Bannock Street, Room 157, Denver, CO 80202, 720-865-8236, 720-865-8270 (fax).

Denver Adoption Day Committee: Eve Anderson, Bethany Christian Services; Beth Bacon, Adoption Exchange; Barbara Bosley, Denver Juvenile Court; Laura Coale, Denver Human Services; Linda Greene, Child Advocates (Denver CASA); Breanna Griffin, Denver Human Services; Jay Jones, Attorney at Law; Shana Kloek, Denver Juvenile Court; Rob McCallum, State Court Administrator's Office; Laurel Moore, Colorado Department of Human Services; Jill Morin, Adoption Exchange; Barbara Pierce, Denver Human Services; Tammie Raatz, Denver Human Services; Shannon Rios, Life Threads; Renee Romero, Denver Juvenile Court; Tammy Rula, Denver Human Services; Gretchen Russo, Denver Juvenile Court; Lizbeth Rustad-Ponder, Denver Human Services; Benilda Samuels, Department of Human Services; Jon Sarche, State Court Administrator's Office; Amanda Tin, Adoption Alliance; Linda Trantow, Denver Human Services; Connie Vigil, Colorado Department of Human Services.