



# news

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## **National Adoption Day to be celebrated in Pueblo County** *Six children to be united with permanent families*

The juvenile court in Pueblo County and the Pueblo County Social Services Department will co-host a local celebration of National Adoption Day on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008. Six foster children will officially be united with permanent families. The adoption proceedings will be conducted from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Pueblo County Judicial Building, 320 W. 10<sup>th</sup> in Pueblo.

“This is one of the rare instances where all parties are leaving the courtroom happy and satisfied,” said District Judge Larry Schwartz. “People open their hearts and homes to these children and we are so honored to host such an important event. As one of the newer appointments to the Tenth Judicial District bench, I find this event to be such a positive way to mark the beginning of new lives based on the teamwork of many professionals. It’s a pleasure to preside over these proceedings.”

Each year approximately 900,000 children are abused or neglected in the United States. Many of these children need to be removed from their families of origin for their safety. Too many of these children never find a permanent home, whether parental rights are terminated as a result of parental misconduct or neglect, or parents fail or refuse to make the changes necessary for their children to be safely returned.

National Adoption Day Celebrations offer an opportunity to honor the wonderful people who have stepped forward to provide nurturing and a permanent home to otherwise forgotten children. National Adoption Day events also remind us that other children need adoptive parents or caring adults to provide long-term foster care for children. Nationwide thousands of children, parents, judges, volunteer lawyers, adoption professionals and child advocates gather for this special occasion.

**Editor's note:** For more information, please contact Karen Hiraki of the Pueblo County Department of Social Services at 719-583-4716.