

**Superior Court of California  
County of Santa Clara**



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## **Santa Clara County Observes Family Reunification Day May 31, 2017**

*We celebrate the important accomplishments of parents and the many professionals that support them in getting their children home safely.*

SAN JOSÉ, California (May 25, 2017): On May 31, 2017, Santa Clara County celebrates its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Reunification Day as one of many jurisdictions across the county commemorating the event. Reunification Day, both nationally and locally, occurs annually between Mother's Day and Father's Day. The Santa Clara County celebration will be held in the Social Services Agency Auditorium. The goal of National Reunification Day is to celebrate families and communities coming together and raising awareness about the importance of family reunification for children in foster care. In our county, this event is a collaboration between the Superior Court, the Dependency Advocacy Center, the Department of Family and Children's Services, Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, Office of the County Counsel, First 5, and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

As part of our celebration, the county honors six families who have overcome significant challenges to reunify safely and successfully. Additionally, the county recognizes community honoree Rasa Massoudi, MFT, a substance abuse assessor for Substance Use Treatment Services (SUTS) in Santa Clara County. Dependency judges, attorneys for the parents, children, social workers, and court appointed special advocates all participate in the celebration to honor the work of families and community partners.

Roxanna Alavi, attorney at Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY) articulates "As an attorney having represented both parents and children for the past 10 years, this event in Santa Clara County is always a highlight. I am awed by the incredible obstacles these families had to overcome in order to reunify and become healthy, productive parents, and members of society." Roxanna adds that, "These parents and children are the most vulnerable in our county; they come into the system broken. Their determination, strength, courage and resiliency is truly inspiring. They are also examples of the system working as it should, when social workers, attorneys, the court and community partners support the parents and children to successfully reunify. This event reminds us all why we do the work we do."

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