Superior Court of California
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# Adoption Day 2023: Connecting Foster Children with Long Awaited Forever Homes

**SAN JOSÉ, California (November 16, 2023):** On Friday, November 17, 2023, Santa Clara Superior Court judicial officers and staff, along with the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services, will gather at the Family Justice Center Courthouse to celebrate National Adoption Day by formalizing 23 adoptions and celebrating the concept of family.

On National Adoption Day, courts and communities throughout the United States collaborate to finalize thousands of adoptions of children and honor adopting families. Numerous community events are held each year to celebrate the adoption of foster care children by loving parents.

"National Adoption Day stands as a testament to our collective commitment to the more than 113,000 children yearning for a loving home. This court and community event is a heartwarming alliance, a testament to the power of unity as various entities had to work together to bring the concept of family to life," said Presiding Judge Beth McGowen. "As the County of Santa Clara gathers to celebrate Adoption Day, let us reflect upon the significance that each adoption represents as we head into the holiday season, a time when the importance of family takes center stage and memories are created to build resilience for our daily lives."

Locally, Adoption Day is an opportunity to increase public awareness of the need for adoptive parents, educate would-be parents about the adoption process, and celebrate the local families who have opened their lives to children in need of permanent homes.

The mission of the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) is to keep children safe and families strong and to thrive in a community where every child and family is on a path to reaching their unique potential. In the past five years, DFCS has finalized 540 adoptions with an average of 108 cases per year. Adoption is a lifelong journey and DFCS

strongly believes in the importance of extending families' circle of support throughout their journey.

**“**Adoption Day is a culminating event that recognizes our families who have provided permanency by opening up their arms, hearts and homes,” said Damion Wright, Director of the Department of Family and Children’s Services. “Our adoptive parents have made a commitment to ensure a child has a family to call their own. And there is nothing more important than family as it provides security, safety, and love. There is nothing more significant to a child than being able to call a home ‘a forever home.’”

This day is also unique in that the Santa Clara Superior Court is permitting media access to the adopted children upon the consent of the adult caretaker with whom they are attending the event. This means that our deputies will allow press into the event and facility without the MC500/MC510 documents normally required. Families who agree to be photographed or video recorded can be identified by a special sticker worn by the adoptive parents. Santa Clara Superior Court requests that you respect participants’ decisions and only approach those wearing these badges. Please let us know if you intend to be present for this event by email to media@scscourt.org.

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