

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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SAN JOSÉ, California (November 22, 2024): Today, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara’s Judicial Officers and staff, alongside the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children’s Services, gathered at the Family Justice Center Courthouse to commemorate National Adoption Day. In a heartwarming celebration surrounded by parents, children, families, and friends, 19 adoptions were finalized, uniting children of all ages—from infants to teenagers—with their forever families.

“Adoption Day shines a light on the love and dedication that adoptive families bring to children seeking a sense of belonging,” said Damion Wright, Director of the Department of Family and Children’s Services. “These families provide more than just a home—they offer stability, safety, and unconditional love. Every child deserves the chance to grow in a nurturing and permanent family, and today, we celebrate the extraordinary connections that make that possible.”

National Adoption Day is an annual tradition where courts and communities across the United States work together to finalize thousands of adoptions and honor adoptive families. These celebrations highlight the importance of providing permanent homes for children in foster care.

“Adoption Day is a celebration of love, commitment, and the unbreakable bonds that create families,” said Presiding Judge Beth McGowen. “Every adoption story is a testament to the strength and courage of both children and parents. Today, we honor the families who have opened their hearts and homes, as well as the dedicated professionals who make these life-changing moments possible.”

Locally, Adoption Day not only celebrates families but also raises public awareness about the ongoing need for adoptive parents. It provides an opportunity to educate potential parents about the adoption process and recognize the profound impact that a permanent home has on the life of a child.

This joyous event highlights the remarkable collaboration between the Santa Clara County Superior Court and the Department of Family and Children’s Services. Together, they work diligently to ensure that children find permanent, loving families while adoptive parents receive the resources and support they need to thrive. Special thanks go to the many organizations and

individuals whose dedication and contributions made this celebration possible, including Child Advocates of Silicon Valley, The Family Album Project, Help One Child, Kinship Adoptive & Family Parent Association (KAFPA), Pacific Clinics, and Rebekah Children’s Services. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to providing every child with the stability, safety, and sense of belonging that only a forever family can offer.

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Figure 1- Mother and son arriving for Adoption Day.



Figure 2- Mother and daughter sharing a story.



Figure 3- Damion Wright welcoming guests to the County of Santa Clara's Adoption Day.



Figure 4- Judge Shawna Schwarz overseeing an adoption proceeding.



Figure 5- Judge Frederick Chung photographed with a Forever Family.



Figure 6- Commissioner Jon A. Heaberlin and an adoptee.



Figure 7- Adoptive parents with their son and daughter receiving some tender love and care.



Figure 8- Judge Shawna Schwarz leading parents through the Adoption Day.



Figure 9- Happy faces all around!



Figure 10- A glimpse of post-adoption festivities for families and friends.



Figure 11- Arts and crafts available for families following their adoption proceedings.