



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2016

CONTACTS: Elaine Plunkett
412-350-6897 office
412-287-3260 cell
Elaine.Plunkett@alleghenycounty.us

Mark Bertolet
412-350-3439 office
412-592-1851 cell
Mark.Bertolet@AlleghenyCounty.US

Allegheny County Celebrates National Adoption Day

PITTSBURGH – In recognition of National Adoption Day, 45 children became members of a permanent family this morning. The children, ranging in age from nine months to 14 years old, had their adoptions finalized by Children’s Court after a stay in foster care through the DHS Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF).

“Today we celebrate new families who bring love and permanent homes for these children,” said DHS Director Marc Cherna. “While DHS works very hard to reunify children with their birth parents, there are situations when a child cannot be safely returned home. We applaud each of those individuals and families in our community who willingly step up and provide a forever family to a child in need.”

CYF is mandated by law to protect children from abuse and neglect. CYF provides permanent, safe homes for children, either by providing supportive services to assure safety within the child’s own birth family or by finding an adoptive home or another permanent setting for those children who cannot safely be reunified with their birth family.

Prior to today’s event, the Children’s Court finalized 154 such adoptions this year.

“The finalization of an adoption is a beautiful moment that a family will never forget,” said Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, administrative judge for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division. “This day also holds special meaning for me as a Judge who believes that one of the Court’s greatest callings is to find forever homes for children.”

The celebration took place at the Allegheny County Family Law Center, where families and their guests were entertained by balloon artists and caricaturists. The festivities included appearances by several Disney characters, a donated effort from Pittsburgh Princesses. Additionally, Eadie’s Kitchen and Market provided a light breakfast and Eat’n Park donated Smiley Cookies.

People interested in becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent to a child in Allegheny County may contact the DHS Director’s Action Line at 1-800-862-6783 or the Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN) at 1-800-585-SWAN (7926). For more information, visit: <http://alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Children-Families/Adoption.aspx>

###

MARC CHERNA, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS
101 HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING • ONE SMITHFIELD STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

