



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2015

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Allegheny County Celebrates National Adoption Day

PITTSBURGH – Today in recognition of National Adoption Day, 52 children became members of a permanent family. The children, ranging in age from seven months to 12 years old, had their adoptions finalized by Children’s Court after a stay in foster care through the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF).

“We are grateful to the adoptive families for opening their hearts and providing a permanent, stable, loving home for these children,” said DHS Director Marc Cherna. “The best way for the community to support foster children who cannot be reunified with their birth family is through adoption.”

CYF is mandated by law to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Office 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.

“Today, I reflect on how far the law has come in the 16 years that I have been on the bench,” said Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, administrative judge for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division. “We are much better at finding forever families for children without delay, and making sure that children can maintain ties with their biological families when appropriate.”

The celebration took place at the Allegheny County Family Law Center, where families and their guests were entertained by balloon artists and caricaturists. MixStirs 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/News-Events/Engagement/Become-a-Caregiver.aspx>

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