



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2018

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National Adoption Day Celebration Held in Allegheny County

PITTSBURGH – In recognition of National Adoption Day, 43 children became members of a permanent family this morning. The children, ranging in age from 11 months to 16 years old, had their adoptions finalized by Children’s Court after a stay in foster care through the Department of Human Services’ (DHS) Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF).

“Today permanent families were created for children where they can feel loved, safe, and supported,” said DHS Director Marc Cherna. “While DHS always strives to support birth families, as a last resort a child may need to be removed when their safety and well-being are at risk. We are thankful to the families in our community who answer the call to adopt children when reunification is not an option.”

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 173 such adoptions this year.

“National Adoption Day reminds me of something Pittsburgh’s favorite neighbor Fred Rogers said, ‘Some of my richest experiences have come out of the most painful times.’ Judges witness so much pain, but today we celebrate the transformation of this pain into beautiful new families,” said Judge Kim Eaton, administrative judge for the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Family Division.

The celebration took place at the Family Law Center, where families and their guests were entertained by balloon artists, caricaturists, and Disney’s Princess Elsa and Princess Ariel. 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>.

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