

NEWS



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**Anne Marie Ambrose,
Commissioner**

Thirty adoptions to be finalized at National Adoption Day event

Philadelphia--The adoptions of 30 foster youth will be finalized at a ceremony and celebration recognizing National Adoption Day. The event, sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services and Family Court will take place on November 19th at 11am, at Family Court.

According to Family Court Administrative Judge Kevin Dougherty, this year, for the first time, all six Family Court judges will participate in the event.

“Finalizing an adoption, and helping a foster child become part of a loving permanent family, is perhaps the most gratifying work we do in Family Court” says Dougherty. “I’m thrilled that all six judges will have the opportunity to participate in this joyous event.”

According to DHS Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose, DHS has made great strides in improving child permanency rates and reducing the amount of time children spend in placement. In fact, in 2009 DHS finalized 566 adoptions, an increase of 67 percent from the previous year. Moreover, the average time a child spends in placement before adoption has decreased 38 percent since 2003. Ambrose notes that much of the credit for these positive outcomes are the result of the strong partnership between DHS and Family Court.

“I am so proud of the staff at DHS who are committed to ensuring that children in placement achieve timely permanency,” says Ambrose. “I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to all the families who have opened their hearts and provided a loving home to a child in waiting.”

The adoption proceedings will be followed by a celebratory lunch that will feature circus themed entertainment for the children including strutting mummies, face painting and a balloon artist.

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