

# NEWS



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## Department of Human Services

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Anne Marie Ambrose,  
Commissioner

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### **Eighteen adoptions finalized at National Adoption Day event**

**Philadelphia**--The adoptions of 18 foster youth were finalized at a ceremony and celebration recognizing National Adoption Day and sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services and Family Court. The adoption proceedings were followed by a celebratory lunch, emceed by NBC 10's Vai Sikahema and featured circus themed entertainment for the children including a magician, face painting and Mummies.

The event also included remarks by the Honorable Kevin Dougherty, Administrative Judge of Family Court and DHS Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose as well as a special Adoption Day Citation presented by Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown. Noting the benefits of adoption for foster youth, the citation recognizes the collaborative efforts of the courts, child welfare agencies, advocates and policymakers to finalize adoptions and find permanent, loving homes for children in foster care.

"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" said Dougherty.

"Children in foster care are often referred to as 'children in waiting,' because they are waiting for what every child deserves--a permanent and loving home," said DHS Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose, "At DHS, helping youth in placement achieve timely permanency is one of our top priorities. I am thrilled that for these children, and many others who have been helped by our dedicated staff and provider agencies, the wait is over."

Because more than 40 percent of youth in care are over the age of 12, DHS is working particularly hard to help older youth in care achieve permanency. The Department recently launched a new campaign called *All Roads Lead to Home*, which is seeking to recruit adoptive, foster and kinship

parents for these youth. “All the evidence tells us that older youth achieve significantly better outcomes when they live in a loving, stable home,” said Ambrose.

Ambrose encouraged all families considering adoption to find out more by calling the National Adoption Center at 215-735-9988.

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*The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) is the City agency charged with protecting children from abuse, neglect, and delinquency; ensuring their safety and permanency in nurturing home environments; and strengthening and preserving families by enhancing community-based prevention services. In partnership with community organizations, DHS provides services to strengthen the overall well being of Philadelphia children, youth, and families using a customer focused approach that is responsive to evolving community needs.*