



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

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# media release

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## **National Adoption Month Celebrated This Week in Franklin County Probate Court**

(Columbus, Ohio) – November is *National Adoption Month*, and Franklin County Children Services will celebrate with community partners to honor the adoption of seven children.

Central Ohio will honor National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 16, when Franklin County Probate Judge Robert Montgomery and his staff of magistrates will finalize the adoptions of seven children, ranging in age from 1 to 17, by six loving adoptive families. The celebration will begin at 1:45p.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse, 373 S. High Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Media interviews can be provided after the ceremony.

Franklin County Children Services will be joined by the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy at Capital University Law School, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Public Children Services Association of Ohio and Nationwide Insurance for this auspicious occasion.

“The success of National Adoption Day has always been a team effort and we appreciate every partner who comes forward each year to celebrate this important milestone in the life of our community’s children,” said Chip Spinning, executive director of Franklin County Children Services. “This occasion reinforces the importance of working together to establish permanent connections for every child.”

“National Adoption Day offers a visual and compelling argument that adoption, particularly adoption of older children and sibling groups; is the right answer for families from all walks of life,” said Crystal Ward Allen, executive director of Public Children Services Association of Ohio. According to Allen, it’s not enough to find the right child to fit a family, but rather that it’s crucial to find the right family for these unique children, who have so much to give.

This year’s National Adoption Day celebration continues to gain support through its community partners like the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. “We are honored to have started this effort here in Columbus and several other cities 12 years ago, and are excited to see it as a national movement across North America. With 104,000 children in the U. S. waiting to be adopted, and more than 3,000 here in Ohio, National Adoption Day, is the perfect venue to not only celebrate families who adopt from foster care, but to continue to raise awareness about the cause and engage even more people, so that every child has the chance to grow and thrive in the family they deserve,” said Rita Soronen, president and CEO of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Nationwide Insurance is no newcomer to helping children and families. However, this year they are very excited about partnering with Franklin County Children Services to bring awareness to adoption.

“This is a great opportunity to demonstrate how government, public policy and corporate professionals can work together to strengthen our communities. Adoption is an especially poignant act for me personally, as I was adopted by my father. Adoption gives a child a sense of permanency that can only be found in a forever home,” said Pat Hatler, Chief Legal Governance Officer for Nationwide Insurance.

For more information about National Adoption Day, please call (614) 341-6017 or (419) 610-3974 the day of the event. To find out information about Adoption, call (614) 341-6060 and or log on to [www.franklincountyohio.gov/children-services](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children-services).

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