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# Media Release

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## **National Adoption Month Celebrates Creating Families**

(Columbus, Ohio) – November is *National Adoption Month*, and Franklin County Children Services will celebrate with community partners to honor the adoption of 11 children on one day.

Central Ohio will honor National Adoption Day on Wednesday, November 20th, when Franklin County Probate Judge Robert G. Montgomery and his staff of magistrates will finalize the adoptions of 11 children, ranging in age from 1 to 16, to seven loving adoptive families. The celebration will begin at 12:45p.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, and Nationwide Insurance for this memorable occasion.

“It truly takes a team effort to make National Adoption Day a success, and this year is no exception. This occasion gives our adoptive families a platform to celebrate their decision to adopt and give children a reason to celebrate their new families formed through adoption,” said Chip M. Spinning, executive director of Franklin County Children Services.

The 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 13 years ago, and we are now in more than 400 cities across North America. There are more than 100,000 children in the U.S. waiting to be adopted, thousands of whom are right here in Ohio,” said Rita Soronen, president and CEO of the Dave Thomas Foundation. According to Soronen, this special day brings much needed awareness and celebrates all families formed through adoption.

The National Center of Adoption Law & Policy at Capital University Law School is no newcomer to helping children and families.

“As in years past, the Center was very pleased to recruit and train volunteer attorneys to represent families on National Adoption Day,” said executive director Denise St. Clair. “In addition to providing their expertise to adoptive families on one of the most important days of their lives, the legal community has really stepped up to raise awareness of the critical need for permanent homes for hundreds of kids in foster care here in Ohio.”

Nationwide Insurance is all about keeping children and families safe, so it's understandable why they came to aide 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 at Nationwide Insurance.

National Adoption Day demonstrates how government, public policy and corporate professionals can work together to strengthen the community. For more information about National Adoption Day, please call (614) 341-6017.

For more information about adoption, call the FCCS Adoption Division at (614) 341-6060, or log onto [www.franklincountyohio.gov/children\\_services](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services) and search for our Programs tab.

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