



Dave Thomas
Foundation
for Adoption®

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Six Families Provide “Forever Homes” at Franklin County Children Services’ National Adoption Day Event

(Columbus, Ohio) — November is *National Adoption Month*, and Franklin County Children Services will celebrate with community partners to honor the adoptions of 13 children during the 22nd annual National Adoption Day event on **Wednesday, November 16, 2022**. National Adoption Day highlights the need for permanent, loving homes for children in foster care throughout Ohio and the United States.

More than 3,000 children in Ohio’s foster care system need homes and more than 115,000 nationally are waiting for their forever, adoptive families. During National Adoption Day, Franklin County Probate Judge Jeffrey D. Mackey and his staff of magistrates will finalize the placement of children to six forever homes.

This year, the formal celebration of adoptions will take place inside Probate Court with an opening ceremony at NOON. Family interviews can be scheduled AFTER 3 P.M. by contacting Franklin County Children Services at (614) 341-6085. While the hearings are private, we will attempt to have at least two families available for interviews.

Executive Director of Franklin County Children Services, Chip Spinning, states, “I just love to see when families and youth come together and develop permanent lifelong, positive, and supportive connections. I am very proud of the staff at FCCS and that 13 children under our agency’s care will finalize their adoptions.”

“For more than a decade, we have had strong partnerships in the state of Ohio and Franklin County that have helped changed the lives of hundreds of children lingering in foster care,” said **Rita Soronen**, *President & CEO of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption*. “We believe every child deserves a safe, permanent home and are thrilled to celebrate that the dream of a loving, forever family came true for 13 children today in Franklin County as part of National Adoption Day.”

Many children in Franklin County are referred to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption’s Wendy’s Wonderful Kids® program. Through Wendy’s Wonderful Kids, the Foundation supports the hiring of adoption professionals who implement an evidence-based, child-focused recruitment model that has been proven up to three times more effective at serving youth who have been in foster care the longest, including teenagers, children with special needs and siblings. The Foundation was also a co-founder of National Adoption Day, an initiative through which policymakers, practitioners and advocates have

planned and celebrated the adoptions of more than 75,000 adoptions from foster care over the last 22 years.

For more information, please contact the FCCS Adoption Division at (614) 341-6060 or visit childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/programs/adoption.cfm and davethomasfoundation.org.