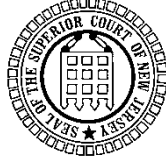


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Union Vicinage

Union County Courthouse
2 Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
908-659-4644

GIUSEPPE M. FAZARI
Trial Court Administrator



LINDA WIGGINS
Ombudsman

For further information contact:
Linda Wiggins, Ombudsman
908-659-4644

For immediate release:
Nov. 19, 2014

Union Vicinage Celebrates Adoption Day

Union Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Union County Courthouse and at the Elizabeth Academy in Elizabeth.

Superior Court Judges Daniel R. Lindemann and Elaine L. Davis will preside over the proceedings. The vicinage is coordinating its Adoption Day program with the Union County Office of the Surrogate, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), and the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Union County, Inc. This year, 11 children will be adopted by seven families. Community volunteers and staff from DCP&P will greet and escort the families to and from the courtrooms.

Following the adoption hearings, a luncheon will be enjoyed by the families at the Elizabeth Academy. They will be joined by other families who adopted 37 children through DCP&P during the year. The luncheon will include entertainment for the children and gift bags for the families and children. Representatives from post-adoption services will be present to answer the families' questions and provide information on resources available to adoptive families.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions and to celebrate families who adopt. It is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the need for adoptive homes and to show appreciation to the families who have opened their lives to children in need of permanent homes. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that there are 399,546 children in foster care in the United States, and more than 100,000 of them are waiting to be adopted.

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Although adoption proceedings are closed to the public, reporters can contact Sandra Thaler-Gerber, civil division manager, at 908-659-4810 with requests to interview willing families after their adoption proceedings conclude.