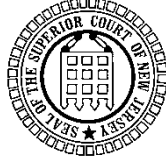


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Union Vicinage

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

JAMES S. AGRO
Trial Court Administrator



LINDA WIGGINS
Ombudsman

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

For immediate release:
Nov. 13, 2015

Union Vicinage Celebrates Adoption Day

Union Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Elizabeth.

Superior Court Judges Daniel R. Lindemann, Alan G. Lesnewich, and Richard Wischusen 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, 12 children will be adopted by eight families. Community volunteers and court staff will greet and escort the families to and from the courtrooms.

Once the adoption hearings are completed, the families will enjoy a breakfast hosted by Union County Surrogate James S. LaCorte, followed by a program with guest speakers and entertainment. They will be joined by Union County families who adopted earlier in the year. CASA will distribute gifts to the families and children. The families will also receive certificates from the Union County surrogate and proclamations from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

In conjunction with Adoption Day, Union Vicinage will host an adoption information fair open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Representatives from several adoption agencies and post-adoption service providers will answer questions and provide information on the adoption process.

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.