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DEBORAH SILVERMAN KATZ  
Assignment Judge

N.J. Courts Website  
<http://www.njcourts.com>

HALL OF JUSTICE  
101 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Camden, NJ 08103-4001  
(856) 379-2231  
Fax: (856) 379-2278

CAROLE A. CUMMINGS, ESQ.  
Trial Court Administrator

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For more information:  
Carole A. Cummings, Esq.  
Trial Court Administrator  
856-379-2231

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### **Camden Vicinage Celebrates National Adoption Day**

The Camden Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 20 at the Hall of Justice, 101 S. Fifth St., Camden, Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz announced. Adoptions will begin at 1 p.m.

An anticipated 45 to 60 adoptions will be finalized at the courthouse. General Equity Presiding Judge Nan S. Famular, and Judges Francine I. Axelrad, Gwendolyn Blue, Angelo J. DiCamillo, Mary Beth Kramer, Sherri L. Schweitzer, Morris G. Smith, and Donald J. Stein will preside over the proceedings.

“National Adoption Day is a joyous occasion for the vicinage, when we are given the opportunity to thank the families who have opened their hearts and homes to those children in most need,” said Assignment Judge Silverman Katz. “There are over 100,000 children in the U.S. in foster care who are waiting to be adopted, and we welcome this opportunity to recommit ourselves to finding them their forever homes.”

The celebration, hosted by the vicinage’s family division in partnership with the Camden County Surrogate’s Office, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Camden County, will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a private luncheon for the families at the surrogate’s office.

Families will then meet at the courthouse, where they will be officially welcomed by Family Presiding Judge Charles W. Dortch Jr. The children also will receive gift bags including blankets, coloring books and pajamas, among other keepsakes to commemorate the day, courtesy of CASA of Camden County.

Approximately 500 to 550 children are adopted in Camden County each year. Today, there are 122 children in Camden County waiting to be adopted.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which the courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions and to celebrate the families who adopt.

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**Although adoptions are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families after the adoption proceedings have concluded. For more information, contact the Trial Court Administrator’s Office at 856-379-2231.**