

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Burlington Vicinage to Celebrate National Adoption Day**

The Burlington Vicinage will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 18 at 8:45 a.m. on the sixth floor of the Courts Facility and County Office Building, 49 Rancocas Rd., Mount Holly, Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder announced.

Adoptions will be finalized for 10 children. Judges Mark P. Tarantino and Gerard H. Breland will preside over the proceedings. Afterward, a luncheon for the children and their families will be held at 11 a.m. at the Funplex, 3320 Rt. 38, Mount Laurel. The celebration will open with welcoming comments from Judge Bookbinder. Judge Tarantino will address the attendees at the luncheon.

The vicinage's Adoption Day program is co-hosted by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, and the Burlington County Office of the Surrogate. The Burlington County Bar Foundation provides toy bears to the children.

Other agencies that have joined with the vicinage on the program are: Catholic Charities, Robin's Nest Counseling, New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House, Foster and Adoptive Families Services, Bridges of Books Foundation and the Linus Project.

National Adoption Day is an annual event that celebrates the families who choose to adopt, while raising public awareness of the need for adoptive homes. If interested in becoming a licensed foster/adoptive parent, call 1-877-NJFOSTER.

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Though adoption hearings are closed to the public, arrangements can be made for reporters to interview willing families after the proceedings. Contact Donna Mazzanti at 609-518-2518 for additional information.