

News Release



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For immediate release:
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Burlington Vicinage to Celebrate National Adoption Day

The Burlington Vicinage will celebrate its 12th annual Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 16 at 8:45 a.m. in the jury assembly room of the Courts Facility, 49 Rancocas Road., Mount Holly.

Superior Court Judges Richard L. Hertzberg, Aimee R. Belgard and John L. Call Jr. will finalize adoption proceedings for 21 children.

The celebration will open with welcoming comments from Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder, Family Presiding Judge Richard J. Nocella and Burlington County Surrogate Mary Ann C. O'Brien. A luncheon for the children and their families will be held at noon at the Funplex, 3320 Route 38, Mount Laurel. Judge Hertzberg will address the attendees at the luncheon, which also will include families whose adoptions were finalized throughout the year.

"We are honored to play a role in this meaningful occasion that marks the creation of a new family," Judge Bookbinder said. "We hope the program will encourage others to help the many children in foster care become part of a loving, permanent family."

The vicinage's Adoption Day program is co-hosted by the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, and the Burlington County Surrogate's Office. The Burlington County Bar Foundation provides toy bears to the children. Adoption Ops, Foster and Adoptive Families Services and the Linus Project also assisted with the program.

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. Those interested in becoming a licensed foster/adoptive parent should 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 609-288-9500, ext. 38124.