

# News Release



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For immediate release:  
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## Union Vicinage Celebrates 11th Annual Adoption Day

The Union Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Cherry Street Annex of the Union County Courthouse, 2 Cherry St., Elizabeth. This year, 16 children will be adopted into seven families.

Superior Court Judges James Hely and Richard Wischusen will preside over the proceedings. The vicinage is coordinating its Adoption Day program this year with the Union County Surrogate's Office, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County Inc., and the Office of the Law Guardian.

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. The seven adoptive families will be joined by six families with 12 children who were adopted earlier in the year in the county.

CASA of Union County, along with Union Catholic High School students, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority sisters, Girl Scout Troop 40332 and the Westfield chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, will distribute gifts to the families and children. The families also will receive certificates from LaCorte and proclamations from the Union County Board of Freeholders. A photographer will take formal photos of each family. Agencies that provide post-adoption services will distribute information to the families and answer questions. The children will be entertained by a balloon animal vendor, courtesy of A Birthday Wish Foundation, and by Heroes 4 Heroes, a Union County corrections officers philanthropic organization.

In conjunction with Adoption Day, the vicinage will host an adoption resource information fair open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third floor of the Cherry Street Annex. Representatives from several adoption agencies will be present to answer questions and provide information about the adoption process.

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Although adoption proceedings are closed to the public, reporters can contact Sandra Thaler-Gerber, civil division manager, at 908-787-1650, ext. 21491 with requests to interview willing families after their adoption proceedings conclude.