

# 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 13th annual Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 22 at 8:45 a.m. in the jury assembly room of the Burlington County Courts Facility, 49 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly.

Superior Court Judge John J. Burke III and retired Judge John L. Call Jr. will finalize adoption proceedings for five children. The celebration will open with welcome remarks by Assignment Judge Jeanne T. Covert, Family Division 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 Burke will address the attendees at the luncheon, which also will include families whose adoptions were finalized throughout the year.

"There is no greater day or a more meaningful event in the court year than Adoption Day," Judge Covert said. "We are privileged to join in the celebration of 'forever families' throughout our vicinage. We are grateful to all of our constituents who make this dream a reality for so many children and families."

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 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.

Though adoption hearings are closed to the public, arrangements can be made for reporters to interview willing families after the proceedings. For more information, contact Natonya Phillips at 609-288-9500, ext. 38124.

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