

News Release



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Union Vicinage to Celebrate 12th Annual Adoption Day

The Union Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Cherry Street Annex of the Union County Courthouse, 2 Cherry St., Elizabeth.

The adoptions of six children will be finalized, and they will be honored along with 18 children adopted into families in Union County this past year. The children's law guardians will greet and escort the families to and from the courtrooms.

Superior Court Judges Richard Wischusen and James Hely will preside over the proceedings. The vicinage is coordinating its Adoption Day program this year with the Union County Office of the Surrogate, 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, a photo booth, gifts, and entertainment. CASA representatives will distribute gifts collected by students and staff at David Brearley High School in Kenilworth. The families will receive certificates from LaCorte and proclamations from the Union County Board Freeholders. Representatives from New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House will be present to provide post-adoption resource information to the families.

A photographer will take formal photos of each family with the Heroes 4 Heroes, a group of Union County corrections officers who dress as superheroes to raise funds for special-needs or terminally ill children.

“The parents who have chosen adoption are truly the real-life superheroes,” said Peter Famia, coordinator of Heroes 4 Heroes.

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 adoption agencies will be present to answer questions and provide information about the adoption process.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions and to celebrate families who adopt. It is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the need for adoptive homes and to show appreciation to the families who have opened their lives to children in need of permanent homes.

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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.

