

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact
Tamara Scott, Department of Children's Services
(909) 386-1131

The bonds of foster care result in adoption for almost 100 children

Almost 100 children will soon be celebrating the gift of a new last name as they transition from foster care to a permanent, loving family. In honor of National Adoption Month, San Bernardino County will be holding its annual Adoption Finalization Event at 12:15 p.m. on November 29, 2006, at the Ontario Convention Center.

The Department of Children's Services has facilitated more than 1,200 adoptions over the past three years. "Adoption is clearly the best possible outcome when a child's birth parents are not an option," said Department of Children's Services Director Cathy Cimbalo. "Finding stability and permanence for the children in foster care is one of the department's most important goals. The Adoption Finalization Event celebrates both the children and their adoptive families, as they legally become a family. The true goal is met long before, when they become a family in their hearts. Although the children benefit greatly from having a permanent family, it is usually the adoptive parents who believe they have received the greatest gift."

For one such couple, they are adopting one of six siblings, the other five will be adopted by other relatives so the children will have a lifetime of contact.

One family is adopting a 14-year-old girl, their fifth adoption, and would like to encourage other families to give older children a chance to have an adoptive family.

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An aunt adopted two girls at last year's event and this year her sister is adopting the younger sister, "Sisters Adopting Sisters."

We have California families coming from— Apple Valley, Barstow, Cathedral City, Fontana, Hesperia, Mira Loma, Montclair, Perris, Phelan, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Twenty-Nine Palms, Victorville, Winchester, Winnetka, Wrightwood, and Yucaipa

We also have families coming from as far as Arizona, Michigan, Texas, Washington and New Mexico.

All of the children, who have been living with their prospective adoptive parents for some time, will be formally adopted in ceremonies performed by Presiding Judge James C. McGuire, Juvenile Court, Judge Rex Victor, Judge Margaret Powers and Commissioner Deborah Daniels.

Following the event, the media will have an opportunity to interview some of the new families, judges and other participants.

For more information about adopting, contact San Bernardino County Children Services at **1-800-722-4477**.