



For Immediate Release
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November is National Adoption Month - DE Children's Department Highlights Children in Need of Loving Homes

Wilmington – Currently there are 90 children in foster care in Delaware ready and waiting to be adopted. Just under half will be able to be adopted by relatives or their foster families, leaving 50 more on any given day looking for permanent families to provide them with the love, support and nurturing they need. That's why the Delaware Children's Department is partnering with public and private adoption agencies, the Family Court, the Child Placement Review Board, community partners and adoptive families to celebrate National Adoption Month.

"All children deserve to grow up in a loving family," said Governor Jack Markell. "As we enter the holiday season, I can think of no better gift to give these children, than the gift of a permanent home."

During the month of November, the Delaware Children's Department will feature profiles of several children who are legally ready for adoption placement. Profiles of many more can be found in the *Heart Gallery* section of our website at <http://kids.delaware.gov/heartgallery/heartgallery.shtml>.

"Each one of our children is unique and has his/her own personalities, special talents, and passions," said Vivian Rapposelli, Secretary for the Delaware Children's Department. "That's why providing them with the opportunity for permanent placement through adoptive services is so critical. In a stable family setting is where they can and achieve their full potential."

Additionally, the Department's Division of Family Services is helping to coordinate two events designed to bring awareness of the importance of adoption in the First State.

The first of these events is the Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care Summit on November the 16th in Wilmington. The goal of the Summit, intended for individuals in the adoption, foster care, independent living fields, and legal community, is to improve permanency outcomes for children in foster care and share practices and policies that work.

The second event is being held in conjunction with National Adoption Day on Saturday November 17th, from 9 a.m. – 3 pm at the Delaware Technical & Community College (Terry Campus, Dover) Conference Center. This event, now in its fifth year in Delaware, provides interested individuals with information regarding adoption services, programs, and procedures. It also serves as a celebration and recognition of the 99 adoptions that were finalized in 2011. There will be workshops in the morning and afternoon, vendors with information on adoption services, and portraits/profiles from children who are looking for permanent homes. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, and is open until November 9th. The link for registration is: <http://courts.delaware.gov/cprb/NADDeRegistration2012.stm>.

Additional information regarding what it takes to become an adoptive parent, a list of Delaware Agencies Licensed for Adoption services, and links to more resources can be found on our website at <http://kids.delaware.gov>.

The Children's Department provides services to children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. For more information, please visit www.kids.delaware.gov.

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