



**Second Judicial Circuit of Florida Press Release
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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

National Adoption Day celebrated on November 6

TALLAHASSEE, FL – In honor of National Adoption Day, an unprecedented number of courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care and to celebrate all families that adopt.

National Adoption Day is a national effort to raise awareness for children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. In July, 2014, Circuit Judge, Karen Gievers, in collaboration with Children's Home Society, the Department of Children and Families, and Big Bend Community Based Care, began an initiative to reduce the number of children pending adoption in Leon County. At that time, there were 75 children pending adoption. To date, 44 of the 75 children have found their forever family; 18 of the 44 were teenagers.

This year on National Adoption Day in Leon County, the Court anticipates that 11 children will be finalized, two of which are teenagers.

The Second Judicial Circuit will recognize National Adoption Day on Friday, November 6. The Court will finalize adoptions and a celebration will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Leon Human Services Center to celebrate with those families who will be participating in the finalization and recognition ceremony. The adoption finalization celebration will begin on Friday, November 6, 2015 at the Leon County Courthouse, Courtroom 3-G at 9:00 a.m.

The Honorable Karen Gievers, Circuit Judge, will preside over the adoption finalizations.