



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

Celebrating Family Unification in Florida's Second Judicial Circuit

TALLAHASSEE, FL — On Friday, June 5, 2026, the Second Judicial Circuit hosted its 2nd Annual Unification Celebration, recognizing families who successfully achieved reunification and marking the beginning of National Unification Month.

Nine families were invited to the celebration and seven families participated in celebratory court hearings. To protect privacy, hearings were scheduled individually, allowing families to choose the level of visibility that felt comfortable while still receiving recognition for their achievement.

For many families, reunification follows months or years of court involvement and services. When achieved safely, it represents an important and hard-earned milestone for children, parents, and those who supported them.

All the families recognized during this year's celebration benefited from specialized programs designed to strengthen families.

Nearly every family celebrated had the support of the Office of Regional Conflict Counsel's Parent Support Program. Parent Support Specialists work alongside parent attorneys to provide practical assistance, encouragement, and support throughout the dependency process.

One family participated in Early Childhood Court, a voluntary, intensive program for families with young children aiming to strengthen child-parent relationships and address barriers to permanency.

Following the event, participating families shared positive feedback. One mother said she felt "very loved" during the celebration and reported that her children enjoyed the event

so much they asked to return. Another participant expressed hope that the community would continue to “increase the number of families who are reunified and celebrated.”

A common theme emerged from participating families: gratitude for the people who supported them along the way. Their reflections underscore the importance of sustained, relationship-based support throughout the dependency process.

National Unification Month recognizes both family progress and partnerships that help children and families remain safely together. The 2nd Annual Unification Celebration reflected what can be achieved through collaboration, commitment, and care, while reaffirming the Second Judicial Circuit’s commitment to supporting family unification.

The celebration of families was made possible through collaboration among Northwest Florida Health Network, the Guardian ad Litem Office, the Office of Regional Conflict Counsel, the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Second Judicial Circuit’s Office of Court Administration, and Safe Families for Children of North Florida.