



Second Judicial Circuit of Florida

June 9, 2025

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inaugural Reunification Celebration Honors Family Strength and Community Collaboration

TALLAHASSEE, FL — Families, advocates, and community leaders gathered Friday, June 6, 2025 at the Leon County Courthouse for the inaugural Reunification Celebration, honoring the love, resilience, and determination of parents who have reunified with their children or are nearing reunification. The event, held in recognition of June as Reunification Month, featured a morning filled with private ceremonies, a public program, and a heartfelt community reception.

Six families participated in this year's celebration, with children ranging in age from 1 to 15 years old. Their stories represent the hard work, hope, and healing that reunification requires—and the joy that comes when families are restored.

“Today reminds us that healing is possible when we lead with hope and surround families with support,” said Early Childhood Court Coordinator Charlie Jackson. “These parents have shown immense courage, and it’s an honor to celebrate their journey.”

The celebration was the result of months of collaboration by a dedicated planning committee that included at least one representative from each of the following organizations:

- Second Judicial Circuit Office of the Court Administration
- Safe Families for Children of North Florida
- Camelot Community Care
- NWF Health Network
- FSU Public Interest Law Center, Children’s Advocacy Center

- DISC Village, Inc.
- Children's Legal Services / Department of Children and Families
- Florida Guardian ad Litem Office
- FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy
- Legal Services of North Florida
- Office of Regional Conflict Counsel

The day began at 10:00 AM with private court hearings and recognition of families, presided over by Circuit Judge Barbara Hobbs, who offered words of encouragement and celebration for each family's journey and accomplishments.

At 11:00 AM, the courtroom opened to the public for a celebratory program emceed by Emmalyn Dalton, Advocacy Attorney with the Florida State University Public Interest Law Center. The program included remarks from Leon County Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, who presented a county proclamation, and Circuit Judge Anthony Miller, who presented a city proclamation issued by Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey declaring June as Reunification Month and commending the families' strength and perseverance.

Markeisa Tassy, with Safe Families for Children of North Florida, delivered powerful remarks grounded in her own lived experience, offered a prayer over family restoration, and invited attendees to the reception.

The reception, held on the first floor of the courthouse, was beautifully catered and decorated by volunteers from Safe Families for Children of North Florida. Guests enjoyed refreshments and visits from the TMH Animal Therapy dogs. The joyful atmosphere was captured by Julie Alley Photography and The Current Agency, a digital and creative marketing agency.

With a strong spirit of collaboration and hope, the event marked the beginning of a new tradition. Plans for a second annual Reunification Celebration are already underway, with an even greater vision for honoring families and strengthening community partnerships.

One participating parent, Brandy Tynes, expressed her deep appreciation for the journey that brought her family back together. "Sometimes you have to take a fall to get back up," she reflected. "I'm forever grateful for my three children." Looking ahead, she hopes to return next year to celebrate alongside other families and encourages all parents to "never give up on those you love, because they will never give up on you."

Today's gathering served as a powerful reminder of what is possible when families are supported with compassion and a committed network of care. As Reunification Month continues, Tallahassee stands united in its commitment to uplifting and celebrating families.

Julie Alley Photography and The Current Agency have photos and videos of the event.

Court Staff took the following pictures. Only one participating parent signed media releases (Brandy Tynes), and her image is included below.



Figure 1 The Florida Guardian ad Litem Office pictured with Judge Hobbs and Judge Miller.



Figure 2 Left to Right: Circuit Judge Anthony Miller, Early Childhood Court Coordinator / Planning Committee Chair Jessica Deneen, Early Childhood Court Coordinator Charlie Jackson, Circuit Judge Barbara Hobbs, Director of Family Law Case Management Kim Stephens



*Figure 3*Left to Right: Charlie Jackson, County Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, Judge Barbara Hobbs, and Jessica Deneen; County Proclamation for Reunification Month



Figure 4 Safe Families for Children of North Florida Family Coach Supervisor Markeisa Tassy with the Proclamation issued by Mayor John Dailey



Figure 5 Left to Right: Charlie Jackson, Jessica Deneen, Markeisa Tassy, Judge Hobbs, and Safe Families for Children of North Florida Community Engagement Manager Tammy Pulsifer and Chapter Director Cathy Campbell



Figure 6 Left to Right: Judge Miller, Mother Brandy Tynes and her children, Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Manager Alexsia Davis, and Judge Hobbs