



MARE IN THE NEWS

Massachusetts to Celebrate the Adoptions of Children from State Foster Care

On Friday, November 18, three courthouses across the Commonwealth will celebrate the adoptions of more than 120 children who had been in state foster care. The events mark the Commonwealth's 14th annual National Adoption Day festivities.

Some of the adoptive parents are relatives of the children – grandparents, aunts, uncles and other extended family – while others had been providing temporary foster care to the children. Still others were recruited and matched with the children through the efforts of the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF), the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE), and private agencies serving children in foster care. Most of the adoptive families are from Massachusetts, from Boston to Plymouth to Holyoke.

The National Adoption Day celebrations feature opening ceremonies in each courthouse with remarks by judges, other dignitaries, and some of the adopting families as well as musical performances and other entertainment. Committees of court personnel, Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF) staff, Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) staff, and community volunteers have arranged for

every child being adopted to receive a gift bag donated by local businesses and friends. National Adoption Day is sponsored by the Massachusetts Court Improvement Program, a federally-funded program administered by the Supreme Judicial Court.

National Adoption Day ceremonies in Massachusetts take place at the following courthouses:

- Boston, Edward W. Brooke Courthouse
- Brockton, George N. Covett Courthouse
- Worcester, Worcester Trial Court

After the opening ceremonies, the formal adoption ceremonies begin. Judges and adopting parents sign the official adoption certificates and the children have the chance to bang the judge's gavel to make it all official.

Courts in all 50 states will open their doors to legalize the adoptions of thousands of children from foster care and to celebrate and honor all families that adopt, marking the 17th annual nationwide National Adoption Day during the week before Thanksgiving. Nearly 58,500 children have left foster care for permanent families, since National Adoption Day started.

Why a National Adoption Day? Through no fault of their own, 8,700 children are living in foster care in Massachusetts right now. While most will return to their birth parents, approximately 800 of these youth are among 100,000 children nationally who are waiting for adoption. National Adoption Day is celebrated to showcase adoption from foster care and to encourage other adults to see themselves as potential adoptive parents.

To learn more about National Adoption Day and adoption from foster care in general, visit www.mareinc.org, or call 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678). Information on the nationwide celebration is available at www.nationaladoptionday.org.

The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE), the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF), the Juvenile Court Department of the Massachusetts Trial Court, the Probate and Family Court Department of the Massachusetts Trial Court, and local adoption agencies have organized this special day to celebrate the joys of adoption and encourage more people to give children what they need most – a permanent, loving home.