

PRESS RELEASE

Ten local children are adopted at the National Adoption Day observance ceremony Community Partnership for Children celebrates foster children finding their forever families

November 14, 2014 On the morning of Friday, November 14, 2014, ten local children sat with foster families, case workers, supporters and friends as they waited to be legally adopted. Community Partnership for Children hosted their annual National Adoption Day ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate families who have chosen to adopt children from the foster care system.

Eight families were in attendance, with ten children awaiting adoption from the ages of 3 – 17. Each family approached a judge and lawyer as they would in a regular adoption finalization hearing and legally accepted the charge of parenthood through acceptance of a judge's review. "Although this is an official court setting, we have amended the rules a bit to allow for cheers, tears and pictures to be taken" said Chief Judge Terry Perkins as he proceeded to the first adoption. The adoption ceremony was held at the Historic Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach and featured words from Chief Executive Officer of Community Partnership for Children, Mark Jones, Northeast Regional Managing Director of the Florida Department of Children and Families, David Abramowitz and Christian songstress Eva Kroon Pike. Community Partnership for Children was also presented with a proclamation, officially making the day 'National Adoption Day' and November, National Adoption Month. Judges Terry Perkins, Thomas Portuallo, and Dawn D. Nichols presided of the ceremonies.

Community Partnership for Children joins community based care agencies all over the state of Florida in celebrating the adoptions of hundreds of foster children. "We are extremely excited about this day. It's definitely one that should be celebrated; one that we spend 364 days per year preparing for" says Mark Jones as he addresses those in attendance. The ceremony celebrated ten children this year but many others are adopted throughout the year. The agency, which serves Volusia, Flagler and Putnam counties, actually exceeded the state-wide goal for adoptions last year by helping 183 children find 'forever families'.

As the event neared its end, every child and family left with smiles on their faces. The parents and children agreed that this was a day that everyone should be able to experience; many of the parents having adopted other children in the past. As the last adoption was finalized, the sun rose from under the clouds and eight families walked away with a new definition of what family was. Community Partnership for Children works to serve all children by strengthening or establishing a

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flourishing family environment. For more information about their services, which include foster parent training, mentorship opportunities and adoption, please visit www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org or call their main offices at (386)238-4900.