

Superior Court of the State of Washington for Snohomish County

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PRESIDING JUDGE
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SUPERIOR AND JUVENILE COURT
BOB TERWILLIGER

PRESS RELEASE: November 9, 2011

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY CELEBRATION

Snohomish County Superior/Juvenile Court, in conjunction with the Snohomish County Clerk's Office, will be participating in the National Adoption Day program. On Friday, November 18, 2011, the Court will be finalizing multiple adoptions for children, who were in foster care, by placing them with loving and caring families. The National Adoption Day Program was started eleven years ago and this marks the seventh year that the Snohomish County Superior/Juvenile Court and the Snohomish County Clerk's Office have co-sponsored this event. In 2010, Snohomish County Superior/Juvenile Court finalized more adoptions on National Adoption Day than any other court in the state of Washington. We hope to do it again in 2011.

Nationally there are approximately 408,425 children in foster care. Throughout the United States more than 107,000 foster children eligible and waiting to be adopted into loving families. As part of the National Adoption Day Celebration it is expected that thousands of adoptions will be finalized on this day. In Snohomish County there are over 1400 children in foster care and approximately 320 are eligible and waiting to be adopted. During our ceremony on November 18, 2011 it is anticipated that numerous children will have their adoptions finalized.

"Our Court is proud to join the hundreds of volunteer lawyers, foster care professionals, child advocates and judges working together nationwide on one special day to celebrate the adoption process," said Judge David Kurtz, chair of the National Adoption Day Celebration for the Court. "We encourage everyone to join the celebration and learn more about adoption and giving children in foster care the permanent, loving families they deserve." said Presiding Judge Ellen Fair.

Since 1987, the number of children in foster care nationally has doubled, and the average time a child remains in foster care had lengthened to nearly three years. Each year, nearly 28,000 children in foster care will age out of the system without ever being placed with a permanent family. Nearly, 48 million Americans have considered adoption from foster care, according to a National Adoption Attitudes Survey commissioned by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. If just one in 500 of these adults adopt, all the children in foster care waiting for adoption would have permanent families.

The National Adoption Day Celebration will take place in Snohomish County Superior/Juvenile Court on November 18, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. through Noon. The adoptions will take place in Courtroom C-201 and Courtroom 1 on the second floor of the Courthouse. There will be a short program at 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Jury Assembly Room on the first floor of the Courthouse. A young person who has been recently adopted from the foster care system will be the guest speaker. There will be refreshments for all and fun and games for the children and the families.

If you have any questions please contact Flint Stebbins at 425-388-3881/flint.stebbins@snoco.org or Bob Terwilliger at 425-388-3798/bob.terwilliger@snoco.org or Jessica Gurley at 425-388-7840/jessica.gurley@snoco.org .