

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CUMBERLAND / GLOUCESTER / SALEM VICINAGE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Forty Children Will Join Forever Families as Part of Vicinage XV's Tri-county Adoption Day Event

Vicinage XV of the New Jersey Courts will celebrate Adoption Day in Cumberland and Gloucester counties on Friday, Nov. 20 and in Salem County on Tuesday, Nov. 17, during National Adoption Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Finding Forever Families for Our Children."

Vicinage XV Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio said, "The judges and staff of Vicinage XV are proud that a record number of children in our vicinage will join forever homes as part of this event. Adoption Day is a wonderful way to celebrate with the adoptive families while highlighting the need for safe, secure and loving homes for the thousands of children in foster care."

Adoption hearings will be held in all three counties with approximately 40 children scheduled to be adopted and five family part judges finalizing the adoptions. The Surrogate's offices in Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties have worked hard to process and schedule these adoptions.

The Adoption Day events in all three counties were coordinated by the family division of Superior Court. There will be a reception celebration in each county for adoptive families, with light refreshments sponsored by the state Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). Gifts of books, flowers and stuffed animals have been donated to the children and families by the Cumberland County Bar Association, the Gloucester County Bar Association, the Salem County Bar Association and DYFS. A picture frame and a commemorative tree ornament will also be provided to every family.

Members of the press are invited to attend the reception. All adoption hearings are closed to the public.

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Although adoptions are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families after their adoption proceedings conclude. Please call Ombudsman Sandra Lopez at 856-453-4538 for more information.