

# News Release



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For immediate release:  
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## **Union Vicinage to Celebrate 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Adoption Day**

Assignment Judge Karen Cassidy, along with Family Division Presiding Judge Lisa Chrystal, announced today that the Union Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 20.

The event will take place virtually with Superior Court Judges Marc Brown and James Hely presiding over five adoptions beginning 9 a.m.

Remarks will be made by Judges Cassidy and Chrystal, Union County Surrogate James S. LaCorte, and Haydee Zamora-Dalton, area director of the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency for Middlesex and Union counties.

Breakfast donated by George Vlahos, owner of The Urban Griddle in Elizabeth, and coordinated by the surrogate's office, will be delivered to the families before the start of the program. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, Inc. arranged for gift baskets created with donations from the community, Live or Tie Dye, David Brearley High School in Kenilworth, and other organizations, to be delivered to the families. Festive balloon arrangements to each family will be donated by A Birthday Wish in Westfield.

The Union County Sheriff's Office and Union County's Heroes 4 Heroes, a group of Union County corrections officers who dress as superheroes to raise funds for special-needs or terminally ill children, will lead a caravan to each family's home. Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan of CASA will take the families' first family portrait.

Although adoption proceedings are closed to the public, reporters can contact Civil Division Manager Sandra Thaler-Gerber at 908-787-1650, ext. 21491 with requests to interview willing families after their adoption proceedings conclude.

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