

PRESS RELEASE

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## 160 Los Angeles Foster Children to Join Forever Families as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Adoption Day celebration on November 20

LOS ANGELES (November 11, 2015) – On November 20, 2015 the Alliance for Children's Rights and its partners will celebrate the adoption of 160 Los Angeles foster children into new families on National Adoption Day, Friday, November 20 at 12:30 p.m. at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court.

The day will begin with a press conference with speakers including newly-appointed director of L.A. County's Office of Child Protection Michael Nash, who formerly served as Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. Actress Jordana Brewster



(Fast and Furious) will also attend and participate in an adoption. The press conference will be followed by adoption proceedings at 1:30.

On National Adoption Day, more than 400 courts across the country will finalize adoptions and celebrate families who have adopted children from the foster care system. The celebration is part of a national effort to raise awareness of the nearly 108,000 children in foster care nationwide waiting to find permanent, loving families. Here in Los Angeles County, there are currently nearly 21,000 children in foster care and over 2,000 are available for adoption.

Since 2000, nearly 55,000 children have been joined together with their forever families as part of National Adoption Day activities across all 50 states. Over 3,500 of those children were adopted in Los Angeles alone.

National Adoption Day was founded by the Alliance for Children's Rights in 2000 with the support of the Dave Thomas and Freddie Mac Foundations, based on the success of the Los Angeles Adoption Saturday project. The project began as a solution to the overwhelming number of foster children's adoptions stuck in a backlog. Together, the organizations cleared the backlog and established a national pro bono model for completing adoptions. Learn more at <a href="nationaladoptionday.org">nationaladoptionday.org</a>.

Following National Adoption Day, LifeLock, a sponsor and supporter of the Alliance for Children's Rights, will be speaking with youth transitioning out of foster care about identity theft protection at Survival Saturday on November 21. Unfortunately, foster children can be at heightened risk for identity theft and LifeLock will address this issue and provide guidance to youth transitioning out of the foster care system.

## **Summary of Event Details**

WHAT: National Adoption Day press conference to celebrate the union of 160 families

**WHEN:** Friday, November 20 at 12:30 p.m. (press conference begins); 1:30 p.m. (Adoption proceedings begin)

**WHERE:** Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, 4th floor, 201 Centre Plaza Dr., Monterey Park, 91754

WHO: Adoptive families and children; Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Levanas; Director of the Office of Child Protection Michael Nash; Director of the Department of Children and Family Services Philip Browning; CEO of the Alliance for Children's Rights Janis Spire; Public Counsel Adoption Director Karen Ullman; actress and Alliance of Moms ambassador Jordana Brewster (Fast and Furious) and other special guests.

The **Alliance for Children's Rights** protects the rights of impoverished, abused and neglected children and youth. By providing free legal services and advocacy, the Alliance ensures children have safe, stable homes, healthcare and the education they need to thrive. For more information, visit <u>kids-alliance.org</u>.

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