



234 Los Angeles Children To Be Adopted on National Adoption Day Adoptions represent notable progress on the eve of important foster care reforms in California

Los Angeles (November 15, 2016)—On National Adoption Day Friday, November 18th, 2016, at 12:30 pm the Alliance for Children's Rights and its local partners, Public Counsel, DCFS, and the Los Angeles Juvenile Court, will celebrate the adoption of 234 Los Angeles children from foster care at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court. The day will begin with a press conference, followed by adoption proceedings at 1:30 pm.

This year, the celebration of National Adoption Day has special significance for California, as the state has undertaken dramatic reform to move children out of group homes and into nurturing families with new legislation that takes effect January 1, 2017. The success of these reform efforts depends on more members of our community stepping up to provide homes for abused and neglected children in foster care who cannot return to their biological parents. In publicizing the 234 adoptions taking place on November 18th, we hope to draw attention to the great need for foster adoptive families.

In the past, older children often languished in foster care. This year, at Los Angeles National Adoption Day, more than half the children being adopted are over the age of 6, and 27% are over the age of ten, a fact that represents progress toward the goal of helping every child in the child welfare system find permanency and stability so that they can thrive.

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. The project began as a solution to the overwhelming number of adoptions that were stuck in a backlog in the court system. Together, the Alliance and its partners cleared the backlog and established a national pro bono model for expediting pending adoptions. Learn more at nationaladoptionday.org.

Summary of Event Details

WHAT: National Adoption Day press conference to celebrate the union of 234 families

WHEN: Friday, November 18 at 12:30 p.m. (press conference begins);
1:30-3 pm p.m. (Adoption proceedings)

WHERE: Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, 5th floor, 201 Centre Plaza Dr., Monterey Park, 91754

WHO: Adoptive families and children; Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Levanas; Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District; Janis Spire, CEO and President of the Alliance for Children's Rights; Margaret Morrow, President and CEO, Public Counsel; Daniel Svedas, Chief, Adoption and Permanency Resources Division, Department of Child and Family Services; Lisa Campbell-Motton, Director, Los Angeles County Probation Child Welfare Placement Permanency and Quality Assurance, 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 kids-alliance.org.

Contact:

Amy Heibel, Communications Director
Alliance for Children's Rights
Cell: 415 359 4851
a.heibel@kids-alliance.org

