

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO: NINE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE JOYFUL MILESTONE IN THE CIVIC CENTER COURTHOUSE

Nine children and their families attended a celebration and adoption hearings in the Unified Family Court (UFC), which marked the 25th anniversary of Court Adoption and Permanency Month in California, Presiding Judge Anne-Christine Massullo announced today.

"We look forward to this event every year to celebrate the families who are providing a forever home for children who need permanency," said Presiding Judge Massullo, who formerly served as UFC Supervising Judge. "As family court judges, this is one of the most gratifying days for us – presiding over the hearings that officially unite these loving parents and children."

UFC Supervising Judge Roger C. Chan thanked the Court's justice partners and volunteers for their support and care of foster children in the City and County of San Francisco's dependency system.

"We are grateful to the families who opened their homes and hearts to children in foster care," Judge Chan said. "The dedicated social workers from San Francisco's Human Services Agency (HSA), CASA volunteers, community service providers, and extended kin also deserve so much credit for supporting these families on their permanency journey. We appreciate all of their perseverance and commitment to reach this unforgettable day."

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Earlier today, the children and their families celebrated with a festive luncheon in the 4th Floor Rotunda decorated with balloons and flowers. Children played with donated toys, posed for family photos, were entertained by a balloon artist, and helped themselves to lunch and treats before the afternoon adoption hearings in the nearby courtrooms.

“National Adoption Day is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States,” said HSA Adoptions Supervisor Alan Botts. “A coalition of national partners launched National Adoption Day in 1999, and San Francisco County has observed the annual November event since shortly after its inception. Each year, families, social workers, court officials and others gather to honor families that have opened their homes to provide permanency for these children. This year, seven San Francisco foster children were adopted, and all the families present enjoyed a memorable afternoon, with catered food and enthusiastic support from those present. The children received special gifts and, most importantly, a forever family to call their own.”

Sue Lockyer, Senior Program Manager for CASA said: “SFCASA recruits, trains and supports community volunteers to advocate on behalf of children in the foster care system. CASA volunteers often play a pivotal role in supporting a child as they go through the adoption process and beyond. SFCASA is pleased to support the National Adoption Day Celebration at the San Francisco Unified Family Court.”

In the past 18 years, the Court has signed 1,864 adoption orders in San Francisco, with a low of 45 orders in 2020 during COVID-19, and a high of 153 in 2007. So far in 2024, there have been 72 finalizations of adoption, including today’s orders.

Unified Family Court (UFC) comprises Juvenile Dependency, Juvenile Justice, Child Support, and Family Law. UFC’s mission is to provide coordinated services to those who have family-related issues in the court system, strengthen services to the community, and assist and promote healthy families and children.

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