

November 18, 2016
For Immediate Release

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**Madison County Court opens doors on Saturday
to create 10 new adoptive families**
November is Adoption Awareness Month in Illinois

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. – Each year during the week before Thanksgiving, courtrooms open their doors to families waiting to have their adoptions finalized to celebrate National Adoption Day. This year, for the first time, the Madison County Courthouse will be holding a special Saturday session. That morning 10 families will become “official” for 13 children who have been waiting for permanent loving homes through adoption.

Saturday, November 19, 2016
10 a.m. to noon
155 N. Main St.
Edwardsville, IL

Judge Janet Heflin, adoption attorneys and Illinois DCFS staff have joined in the effort to make the day memorable for these new families. There will be refreshments and activities for the children. Local adoptive families are also invited to the reception.

“We are thrilled that Madison County can join in the statewide and national effort to support adoptive families and to encourage others to adopt,” said Lori Gray, DCFS regional administrator.

DCFS helped more than 2,100 families come together through adoption since Adoption Day last November. This month, Illinois will contribute to the more than 4,500 adoptions that are scheduled to be finalized at National Adoption Day events across the country.

Since 2000, National Adoption Day has been celebrated on or near the Saturday before Thanksgiving and thanks to the efforts of policymakers, advocates and practitioners, nearly 60,000 children have been adopted on National Adoption Day in the past 16 years. For more information, visit www.nationaladoptionday.org.

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