



16th Judicial Circuit, Family Court
Jackson County, Missouri

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News Release

Joyful event held virtually this year

National Adoption Day was held virtually today at the Jackson County Family Court as this year, more than ever, there is a need to celebrate the wonderful news of when children are provided Forever Families.

Seventeen families adopted 31 children through virtual hearings that included the parents, children, judge, attorneys, friends and staff.

Family Court Administrative Judge Jalilah Otto welcomed the parents who were adopting a child today saying, "I want to express my sincere gratitude to opening your homes to children, they are a joy, they truly are."

This year, as in year's past, Mr. Stinky Feet provided musical entertainment. Children and their families participated in virtual games while they waited for their hearing to take place.

Due to health and safety concerns during the pandemic, the event could not be held at the Family Justice Center this year. But, the judges and Family Court staff wanted to celebrate these families, all the same, and decided to take the event virtual.

"We are glad we could have a National Adoption Day despite everything that is going on in the world," Otto said.

According to the Children's Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services, there are currently 1,752 children in foster care in Jackson County with approximately 244 with the goal of adoption into a Forever Family. Of those 244 children, there are 50 who do not have a current resource.

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