



## NEWS RELEASE

For Release:  
November 16, 2012

Contact: Valerie Hartman  
Public Information Officer  
(816) 881-3552

### **Forty-one children have “forever families” tonight after Adoption Day event in Jackson County**

Forty-one children have a parent tonight to love and care for them after they were adopted at the Jackson County Family Court this afternoon in celebration of National Adoption Day.

Four judicial officers finalized the adoptions in short court hearings, as parents, children, social workers and attorneys gathered to celebrate with crafts, games, portrait sketches and refreshments.

“Anyone can adopt a child,” said Allen. “You don’t have to be married. You don’t have to have a lot of money. Adoptive families are ethnically and racially diverse. Many caring people are choosing to provide a child with a permanent home.”

Many of the perceived social and economic barriers to adoption have eroded over time, and the Court is seeing diversity in the families who choose to adopt.

Joining in the Adoption Day festivities were Nancy Kenner, President of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, and Elizabeth Alex, News Anchor, KSHB-TV. Both women talked about the joys of adopting a child.

The majority of the children who were adopted this afternoon had been living in foster care or with extended family. Twenty-two families were created or expanded with many parents adopting several children or siblings.

Presently, there are 1,678 children living in foster care in Jackson County. Of those, about 22 percent, or 335 children, have a goal of being adopted. A majority of those will be adopted by a relative or by a foster family. However, among those 335 children, there are 60 children who have no one who has indicated they can step up and adopt them. These are the children who are hoping for a “forever family” and whose photos are highlighted at Missouri Heart Gallery, [www.moheartgallery.org](http://www.moheartgallery.org).

“There are many compassionate people in this community, and last year there were 219 children adopted out of foster care in Jackson County,” said Allen.

Financial assistance is often available from the State of Missouri if you adopt a child who is in foster care.

###