



Special Court Project: National Adoption Day

FACT SHEET

Nebraska Adoption Day 2014

There are Adoption Day Celebrations involving hundreds of families in ten communities throughout Nebraska:

Saturday November 15, 2014:

Lincoln

Saturday November 22, 2014:

Omaha, Fremont, Norfolk, Hastings, Grand Island, McCool Junction, and Kearney

Saturday December 6, 2014:

Scottsbluff and North Platte

2014 Webpage:

<http://supremecourt.ne.gov/4933/nebraska%E2%80%99s-national-adoption-day>

- **Nebraska Adoption Day Statistics** – Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
- **The number of children adopted statewide increased from 453 in 2012 to 529 in 2013.**
- **Additionally, there are over 100 children being adopted during Adoption Day Celebration this year.** Lincoln – 34, Omaha – 53, Hastings – 5, Grand Island – 14, Kearney - 11
- **As of today, there are 325 children currently in foster care that are available for adoption and need adoptive homes. This number is up from 304 in 2012.** (This does not include children already placed in adoptive homes)

Nebraska Adoption Resources – Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services:

- Toll-free phone number: **1-800-7PARENT** (1-800-772-7368)
- Adoption website: http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/adoption.aspx
- Adoption website for children currently available for adoption: http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/adoption_children.aspx

State Contacts (local contacts and judges on individual press releases):

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History of Nebraska Adoption Day

Courts became involved in Nebraska's Adoption Day in order to raise awareness of the need for permanent families for foster-adopt children throughout the state.

Judges take this opportunity to thank adoption specialists and caseworkers who have become a part of each Nebraska family who adopts a state ward.

For courts, caseworkers, and the legal community, Adoption Day is a celebration of a child who has gained the permanency that every child deserves. It is the celebration of the creation of a new family and of all those individuals within a community that work so hard every day to ensure that every child has a safe permanent home.

It is a day where children celebrate what they already know they are in their heart – a family.



National Adoption Day

On National Adoption Day 2014 – Saturday, November 22nd – a number of courts and communities across the nation will come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care and to celebrate all families who adopt. The day brings together hundreds of judges, attorneys, adoption agencies, adoption professionals, and child advocates who are dedicated to creating forever families for waiting children.

Goals of National Adoption Day

- Finalize adoptions from foster care in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico
- Celebrate and honor all families who adopt
- Raise awareness to the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting for adoption nationwide
- Encourage others to adopt children from foster care
- Build collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts, and advocacy organizations
- Communicate availability and need for post-adoptive services

History of National Adoption Day

Since 2000, National Adoption Day has grown from nine events in its first year to more than 400 events in 2011 with 4,800 adoptions finalized in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

National Adoption Day Partners

A coalition of national partners – The Alliance for Children's Rights, Children's Action Network, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and the Freddie Mac Foundation – sponsor National Adoption Day to draw special attention to foster children waiting for permanent families and to celebrate all loving families that adopt.