



– Photo by Lorraine Boyd

## Thanksgiving Comes Early

The Omaha Civic Center was a joyous place Saturday, Nov. 23, as 42 children formalized their “forever homes” during National Adoption Day. The main floor was a flurry of activity, with clowns, Stormtroopers, magicians, musicians, and face painters making it a glorious day for kids and their new families alike. One family celebrating that day was the Washington family. Juvenile Court Judge Christopher Kelly declared that La’Zaya’s (fourth from left) last name would henceforth and forever be Washington. Flanked by Judge Kelly and her mom, Angela, La’Zaya flashed the grin she is famous for. In fact, the whole family (including new sisters Amyia, left, and Loyren, in front of Angela) never stopped smiling that whole morning. During this Thanksgiving holiday, these newly-minted families have much to be thankful for. These adoptions affect not only the children and families but all involved. Tom Incontro, La’Zaya’s guardian ad litem, confided, “Don’t you dare catch me crying in your picture.” He has been a guiding hand during La’Zaya’s eight years in the foster system.