

# NEWS RELEASE



## Mahoning County Children Services

330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Adoption Day Event Celebrates Foster Care Adoptions

[YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO] – November marks **National Adoption Awareness Month**. Each year courts, child welfare agencies and community partners join together on one day to do something GREAT—create forever families!

In support of the month, together, Mahoning County Probate Court and Mahoning County Children Services are planning the **Fourth Annual Adoption Day Celebration Event**. The community is cordially invited to this public event slated on:

**Adoption Celebration Event**  
**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**  
**11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.**  
**Mahoning County Courthouse Rotunda**

The Adoption Day Celebration will feature an Adoption Finalization. In addition, the event will also include the East High School Junior ROTC Color Guard, special presentations and a visiting Super Hero!

“This is our opportunity to bring attention to the hundreds of local children in foster care and to make a difference in the lives of these children,” states Judge Robert N. Rusu, Mahoning County Probate Court. The Mahoning County Probate Court finalized 46 adoptions in 2016.

In Ohio, adoption services are provided by public children services agencies like Mahoning County Children Services. Currently, Mahoning County Children Services has 28 children available for adoption. Eleven of those children have been matched with potential permanent homes. However, there are 17 children with NO identified family! The majority of Mahoning County waiting children are teens or children with multiple developmental delays. To learn more about Mahoning County’s waiting children available for adoption visit: [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)

**National Adoption Day** is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than **100,000** children across the nation who are waiting in foster care to get adopted. This one day offers communities the opportunity to finalize adoptions, celebrate adoptive families and find homes for children in foster care. This year’s National Adoption Month theme is “*Teens Need Families No Matter What.*” Children in foster care will spend at least three birthdays waiting for their forever families and the longer children are in foster care, the more at risk they are of growing up in care and leaving without getting adopted. Each year, in Ohio, over 1,000 young people emancipate or “age out” at 18 years old without ever having families to call their own.

**Mahoning County Children Services:** The Agency is experiencing a shortage of licensed foster homes especially for youth 12-18 years of age and foster caregivers who can accommodate sibling groups. At any given time, the Agency has 150-175 children in foster care and that number is rising due to opioid crisis. There are only 41 licensed foster homes to accept children. The Agency needs, at minimum, 30 more foster homes. “Our goal is to decrease the number of children waiting for permanent homes and identify and recruit for new permanent and foster homes.” states Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer, Mahoning County Children Services.

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