

NEWS RELEASE



Mahoning County
Children Services
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Adoption Day Event Celebrates “The Many Faces of Adoption”

[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 AMAZING—create forever families!

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than **117,000** children across the nation who are waiting in foster care for an adoptive family. This one day offers communities the opportunity to finalize adoptions, celebrate adoptive families and find homes for children in foster care.

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

Wednesday, November 1, 2018
11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
Mahoning County Courthouse Rotunda

The Adoption Day Celebration will feature two child Adoption Finalizations, the East High School Junior ROTC Color Guard , and a few “furry and adoptable” animals from Angels for Animals.

Local Waiting Children: In Ohio, adoption services are provided by public children services agencies like Mahoning County Children Services. Currently, Mahoning County Children Services has **38** children in the permanent custody of the agency. Of the 38 children, the agency has identified adoptive families for **23** children. However, there are **15** children with NO identified family! The majority of Mahoning County waiting children are teens over the age of 15. Learn more about Mahoning County Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Families: www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/

“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. If we can connect one child with an adoptive family with this event, it’s a success,” states Judge Robert N. Rusu, Jr., Mahoning County Probate Court.

National Stats: 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, over 20,000 children (over 1,000 in Ohio alone) emancipate out of foster care at 18 years old without a permanent family or home.

“Mahoning County Children Services is in immediate and great need of foster homes for youth 12-18 years of age and foster caregivers who are able to accommodate sibling groups. At any given time, the Agency has 150-175 children in foster care and that number is rising. “Our goal is to decrease the number of children waiting for adoptive families and identify and recruit new adoptive and foster homes.” explains Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer, Mahoning County Children Services.

Learn more about Mahoning County Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Families: www.mahoningkids.com

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