

NEWS RELEASE

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 247 West Third Street, 11th Floor San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0302 www.sb-court.org

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117 CHILDREN GAINED FOREVER FAMILIES AT THE 22ND ANNUAL ADOPTION FINALIZATION EVENT

SAN BERNARDINO, CA—The 22nd Annual San Bernardino County Children and Family Services Adoption Finalization Event was held on November 21, 2019 at the Ontario Convention Center. This year's event celebrated the adoption of 117 children ranging in age from eight months to seventeen years. The event included participation from 74 families, including 26 sibling sets, and resulted in more than 50 children being adopted by relatives.

The space-themed event "Family and a Journey Forever", included planet-inspired balloons, robots, and rocket-ship décor. The theme focused on compassion, commitment and community as the foundations for adoptive parents to begin their *journey* with their children. Participating families came from all over California, as well as Arizona and Texas to finalize their adoptions.

November is Court Adoption and Permanency Month. This year marks the 20th anniversary that the Judicial Council has recognized the efforts of California courts and its justice partners to provide children and families with fair judicial proceedings and just permanency outcomes.

Court Adoption and Permanency Month is a collective effort to bring awareness to the need of over 125,000 children in the United States, and over 60,000 in California awaiting adoption.

Aligned with the court's <u>2018-2023 Strategic Plan</u>, this collaborative event helps strengthen local partnerships and increase investment in the court and community in order to provide the broadest possible access to justice.

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