



# MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY

Giving  
thanks for  
families

## News Release

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### **First Michigan "Adoption Day" will be Nov. 25 Theme is "Giving Thanks for Families"**

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**November 10, 2003**

Michigan will give thanks to adoptive families Nov. 25 during the first state Adoption Day, an event sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and Family Independence Agency.

With assistance from local FIA offices and private adoption agencies, courts in 33 counties will finalize adoptions for more than 200 children that day, hold celebrations for adoptive families, and provide information about the adoption process. FIA director Nannette Bowler said the event is the first time Michigan has ever held a statewide event to celebrate adoptions.

"Michigan Adoption Day will bring the adoption process to the forefront," said Bowler. "FIA staff and private agencies under contract to the state helped place 2,833 children into loving adoptive homes in fiscal year 2002. Almost 2,000 of these children were in sibling groups needing adoption."

While most of the courts participating in Michigan Adoption Day will finalize adoptions, other courts will participate by holding an "adoption open house," with handouts and other information about the adoption process.

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan said she hopes the event will draw attention not only to the adoption process but also to the number of children available for adoption.

"Our state has thousands of children in foster care as a result of child protective proceedings," Corrigan said. "Most of them hope to return to a home where abuse or neglect is not present, but many can never return home again. Those are the children for whom adoption is the only answer."

At the end of September, there were 12,701 children who were temporary court wards in Michigan – children made wards of the court as a result of child protective proceedings – and there were 19,490 children in Michigan’s foster care program. For most children in the foster care program, their return home to an abuse-free home is the goal.

There are 4,584 permanent wards in care with a goal of adoption. Many of these children have a family identified and are in the process of having that adoption finalized – like the adoptions that will take place around Michigan Nov. 25. However, the most current Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange listing shows about 400 permanent state wards available for adoption who do not have an adoptive family identified. The FIA is actively recruiting adoptive homes for these children.

The Nov. 25 event will help celebrate National Adoption Month in November, where Nov. 22 has been designated National Adoption Day. Although a number of courts and other states are participating in National Adoption Day activities, national organizers say the Michigan event appears to be the largest statewide event in the country.

Attached is a list of the participating counties and their respective judges.

- To acquire an updated listing of courts participating in Michigan Adoption Day, go to this Web site: <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm>
- For more information on children awaiting adoption go to <http://www.mare.org>
- For more information on public adoption policies and data, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/fia> and click on “Adoption”.
- For more information on National Adoption Day, go to <http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/>



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## NOVEMBER 25, 2003

### COUNTIES AND JUDGES (AS OF 11/5/03)

ALLEGAN/HON. MICHAEL BUCK  
ALPENA/HON. DOUGLAS PUGH  
ANTRIM/HON. NORMAN HAYES  
BAY/HON. KAREN TIGHE  
CALHOUN/HON. GARY REED  
CASS/HON. SUSAN DOBRICH  
CHARLEVOIX/HON. FREDERICK MULHAUSER  
CHEBOYGAN/HON. ROBERT JOHN BUTTS  
CHIPPEWA/HON. LOWELL ULRICH (INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE)  
DELTA/HON. ROBERT GOEBEL, JR.  
GENESEE/HON. ALLEN NELSON AND HON. JOHN GADOLA  
GRAND TRAVERSE/HON. DAVID STOWE  
HILLSDALE/HON. MICHAEL NYE  
INGHAM/HON. JANELLE LAWLESS  
IONIA/HON. GERALD SUPINA (INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE)  
ISABELLA/HON. WILLIAM ERVIN  
JACKSON/HON. SUSAN VANDERCOOK AND HON. JOHN MCBAIN  
KALAMAZOO/HON. DONALD HALSTEAD  
LENAWEE/HON. CHARLES JAMESON  
LIVINGSTON/HON. SUSAN RECK  
MACOMB/HON. MATTHEW SWITALSKI  
MIDLAND /HON. DORENE ALLEN  
MONROE/HON. PAMELA MOSKWA AND HON. JOHN HOHMAN, JR.  
NEWAYGO/HON. GRAYDON DIMKOFF  
OAKLAND/HON. LINDA HALLMARK AND HON. EUGENE ARTHUR MOORE  
OSCODA/HON. KATHRYN ROOT (INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE)  
OTTAWA/HON. MARK FEYEN  
SAGINAW/HON. FAYE HARRISON  
ST. JOSEPH/HON. THOMAS SHUMAKER  
ST. CLAIR/HON. ELWOOD BROWN  
TUSCOLA/HON. W. WALLACE KENT, JR.  
WASHTENAW/HON. DONALD SHELTON  
WAYNE/HON. MARY BETH KELLY