



Maricopa County

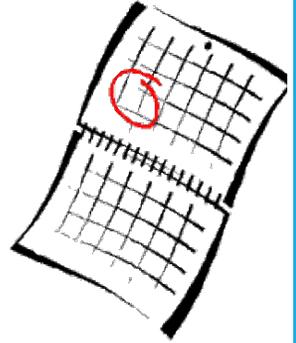
**National
Adoption Day**
FOUNDATION

PRESENTERS

Kathryn Pidgeon-Co Chair

Janet Story-Co Chair

The History of National Adoption Day



National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness of the more than 123,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States.

A coalition of national partners including the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Alliance for Children's Rights and Children's Action Network-founded National Adoption Day 19 years ago.

On November 18, 2000, the coalition and the Freddie Mac Foundation encouraged 7 cities to open their courts on or around the Saturday before Thanksgiving to finalize and celebrate adoptions with special emphasis on adoptions from foster care. Maricopa County was one of those jurisdictions that accepted that challenge and held their very first National Adoption Day on November 18, 2000.

The First National Adoption Day was inspired by the innovative efforts of Michael Nash, a former presiding judge of Los Angeles County's Juvenile Court. He opened the court on that Saturday, engaged the volunteer efforts of court personnel and finalized adoptions to reduce the backlog of one of the busiest courts in the nation.

Today, the collaboration of countless practitioners and advocates plan these annual, one day events in over 400 cities across the United States.

To date, the dreams of over 75,000 children in foster care have come true as part of National Adoption Day events across the country!



Maricopa County National Adoption Day

Maricopa County was one of 7 jurisdictions across the United States that held a celebration on the first National challenge.

That first year in 2000, our county finalized the adoptions of **59** children. We have continued to hold our event every year since, always on the exact day-the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The founders of this collaboration wanted this day to fall on the Saturday before Thanksgiving so that the children adopted could begin the holidays as a forever family!

Maricopa National Adoption Day is proud to have held every single celebration since 2000 on that day!

To date, over **4,000** children in Maricopa County have realized their dream to be apart of a forever home on National Adoption Day!



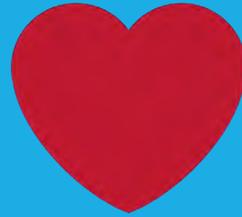
This year, our **20th celebration**, we are
on course to finalize the adoptions of
145 more children!



Celebrating a Family for Every Child



Our event is organized and funded by a 501c3 foundation named Maricopa County National Adoption Day Foundation. Janet Story and Kathryn Pidgeon were instrumental in creating this Foundation in order to keep this event thriving and growing.



Each year, the Foundation accepts donations from its board members as well as community organizations and generous citizens which are all spent on the event itself. The Foundation has no paid staff and is completely a volunteer group. The board is chaired by Janet and Kathryn and is made up of several additional adoption attorneys, adoption agencies, DCS case workers and court personnel. These selfless individuals raise the funds, gather in kind donations, and arrive very early to set up the event, participate in the hearings, and then clean up.



Many licensing agencies volunteer to run an activity for the children to keep them busy! We provide t-shirts to all the volunteers as well as breakfast, lunch, and beverages. The Juvenile Court provides security as well as clerks for the courtrooms and many judges volunteer their time to preside over the court hearings and provide medals and certificates for the children.



The Foundation provides underwriting for a professional photographer to capture a family portrait of the new forever family immediately after their final hearing. Love Up Foundation underwrites a picture frame for each family for their portrait.

#LOVEUP
FOUNDATION



Girl Scouts make blankets for the children as a keep sake to go in a tote bag, along with a stuffed animal with a special note for each child donated by E3 AZ Foundation. Other agencies such as Casey Family and the Arizona Adoption Coalition help us underwrite items for the families.

We provide food to the families as well as activities for the children and cartoon characters to entertain them. There are face painters, balloon artists, DJ, and balloons.



The Durango Juvenile Courthouse
is open to the public so that
anyone is welcome to come
watch the magic of adoption!





Follow us!

Website:

www.maricopanad.org

Facebook Title:

Maricopa County National Adoption Day

Twitter:

@MaricopaNAD

Instagram:

www.Instagram.com/mcnadfoundation/