



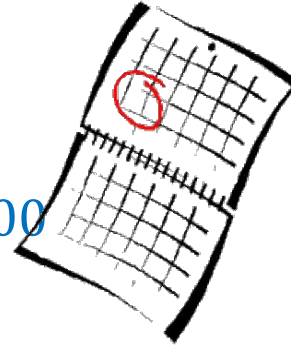
Maricopa County

**National
Adoption Day**
FOUNDATION

PRESENTER

Kathryn Pidgeon-Co Chair

The History of National Adoption Day



National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness of the more than 125,000 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 20 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. Last year alone over **4,000** adoptions were completed on National Adoption Day 2019!

To date, the dreams of over 100,000 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!

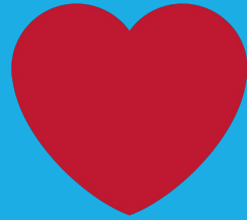
Maricopa National Adoption Day is proud to have held every single celebration since 2000 on that day!

Last year, Maricopa County finalized **145** adoptions. To date, over **4,250** children in Maricopa County have realized their dream to be apart of a forever home on National Adoption Day!





Our event is organized and funded by a 501c3 foundation named Maricopa County National Adoption Day Foundation. Attorneys 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 currently chaired by Kathryn Pidgeon & Tiffany Hill 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!



Maricopa County Juvenile Court, led by our Presiding Judge Joseph Kreamer, successfully pivoted during the pandemic this year to a virtual platform for many court hearings including Adoptions! As of today more than **1266** adoptions have been finalized during the pandemic shut down. Our county is a leader in the Nation in providing permanency for our most vulnerable children!

Adoptions Granted/Completed 2020	
Month	# Children
January 2020	176
February 2020	181
March 2020	183
April 2020	181
May 2020	196
June 2020	179
July 2020	227
August 2020	208
September 2020	151
October 2020	124
Total Year-to-Date	1806
Total April to October 2020	1266
November 2020	
Adoptions Hearings Set	148
# Children to be Adopted	188

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA
★
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona recognizes the importance of giving children who cannot safely reunify with their birth families a permanent, safe, and nurturing family through adoption; and
WHEREAS, state and private agencies work collaboratively with the courts, community members, and members of faith-based organizations to unite children and adults through the process of adoption; and
WHEREAS, adoption places children into loving, permanent homes where they can flourish and grow up to become happy, healthy, productive members of our community; and
WHEREAS, adopting a child is a great joy and presents a great opportunity for collaboration between adoptive families and the communities who support them; and
WHEREAS, people interested in adoption can visit the DCS Children's Heart Gallery website (<https://www.childrensheartgallery.org/>) to learn more about Arizona children who are in need of safe, permanent family settings; and
WHEREAS, every successful adoption is more than an achievement for these children and their adoptive families, it is a story in which all Arizonans can share.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim November 2020 as

ARIZONA ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

and urge all citizens, communities, and support organizations to renew our commitment to increasing the number of Arizona children who find permanency through a loving, adoptive family.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this nineteenth day of October in the year Two Thousand and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fifth.

ATTEST:

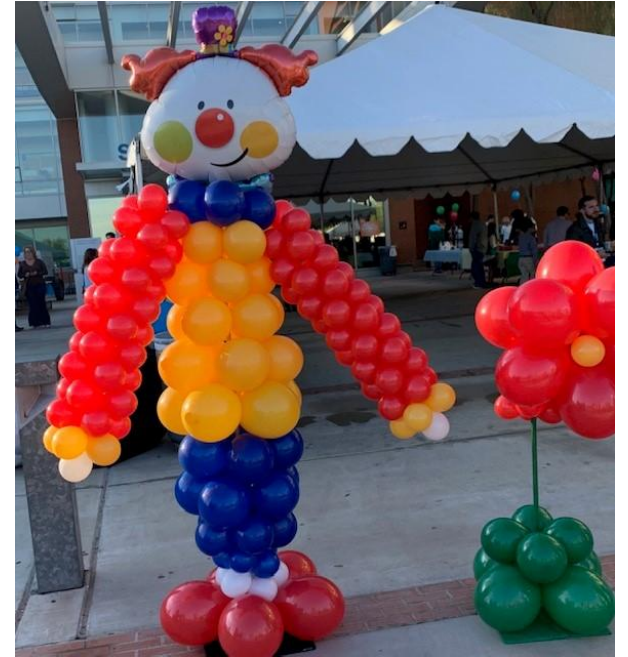
[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

Celebrating National Adoption MONTH during November! Thank you to Governor Ducey for our State Proclamation recognizing the importance of Adoption in November and all year long!



Maricopa County Celebrates November as National Adoption Month!

The Maricopa County Juvenile Court along with the Maricopa County National Adoption Day Foundation will be recognizing families that complete their adoptions in November with the gift of a personalized backpack for each child as well as masks for each family which were generously donated by our partner #LoveUp & a certificate of Congratulations!





Follow us!

Website:

www.maricopanad.org

Facebook Title:

Maricopa County National Adoption Day

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@MaricopaNAD

Instagram:

www.Instagram.com/mcnadfoundation/



Adoption
is Love!

