

Clarence H. Carter, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2012

MEDIA CONTACT
Tasya Peterson
602-542-5204
TasyaPeterson@azdes.gov

DES Celebrates National Adoption Awareness Month

Statewide Events to Celebrate, Finalize Adoptions

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security (DES) is celebrating National Adoption Awareness Month by participating in a number of events throughout the state. During the month of November, the adoptions of more than 400 children statewide, ranging from infants through age 18, are slated to be finalized during official Adoption Day celebrations.

“Adoptions days are truly remarkable events to witness as parents and children come together to form a forever family,” said Director Clarence Carter. “The joy you get just from merely observing the official ceremonies is beyond words. Seeing how happy these children are to be part of a loving family is truly priceless.”

In keeping with the [proclamation](#) that Governor Jan Brewer issued for November as Arizona Adoption Month, the Department of Economic Security is partnering with various juvenile courts throughout the state to finalize the adoptions of hundreds of children currently in foster care.

“Arizona recognizes the importance that support services have in seeing families through the adoption process and beyond,” said Carter. “As the Governor points out in her proclamation, adoptive parents have a special calling — sharing a loving home with children in need, offering them hope for a brighter future.”

Preliminary data shows that between April 2008 and the end of September 2012*, more than 9,000 Arizona children in foster care have found permanent homes in adoptive families. As of September 30, 2012*, of the 14,200 children in foster care, more than 2,680 or 19 percent, have a case plan goal of adoption.

DES is participating in four main Adoption Day events being held around the state:

- On Saturday, November 3, in Tucson, approximately 80 adoptions are scheduled to be finalized. The event will take place at Morris K. Udall Park, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by numerous community organizations, adoption agencies, the Pima County Attorney’s Office and the Pima County Juvenile Court.
- On Friday, November 16, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Yuma County will celebrate National Adoption Day at the county’s Juvenile Justice Center. Between 12 and 15 children are scheduled for finalized adoptions on that day.
- Saturday, November 17, is Adoption Day in both Phoenix and Prescott. The Phoenix event will be held at the Durango Juvenile Court. The adoptions of 363 children will be finalized. This is approximately a 13 percent increase over last year.

The Prescott event will be held at Prescott Courthouse, 120 South Cortez St; seven adoptions are schedule to be finalized. DES representatives will be available at these events.

More information regarding foster care and adoption is available at www.azkidsneedu.gov.

**PLEASE NOTE: As CPS and Adoptions Case Managers continue to update case statistics in the CHIILDS case management system, the preliminary data will most likely change when the official Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report for the period ending September 30, 2012 is published.*

###