

Eric J. Holcomb, Governor Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director

**Indiana Department of Child Services** 

Room E306 – MS47 302 W. Washington Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2738

> 317-234-KIDS FAX: 317-234-4497

> > www.in.gov/dcs

Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757 Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:** 

Brian Heinemann Department of Child Services

Cell: 317-473-2416

Email: brian.heinemann@dcs.in.gov

## Indiana DCS raises awareness during National Adoption Month

**INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 1, 2021)** – The Indiana Adoption Program, the Indiana Department of Child Services and the Indiana Supreme Court are working together to share stories of children who have found permanent, loving homes across Indiana.

Each November, in celebration of National Adoption Month, these agencies collaborate to spread the word about children waiting to find their forever families and share success stories of those who already have. This year, DCS will share photos and videos from adoption events around the state on the <a href="Stories">Stories</a> of DCS website.

"November is an exciting and important month for us," DCS Director Terry Stigdon said. "We take this opportunity to not only say thank you to those who support Hoosier children by providing a safe, stable and, most importantly, permanent home, but to also raise awareness of the children out there still waiting to find their forever family."

More than 1,200 children are legally available for adoption in Indiana. While National Adoption Day on Nov. 20 is a special occasion for all concerned, every adoption throughout the month – and year – is equally meaningful and rewarding. To help share the joy of adoptions, the Indiana Supreme Court signed an order in September 2020 granting permanent authorization to broadcast uncontested adoption proceedings.

"The Supreme Court allows cameras in court for adoption proceedings in order to share the special moment with the community and showcase the positive role of courts in helping families unite," Chief Justice Loretta Rush said. "Adoption proceedings are the happiest day in court for the children, families, caseworkers and for the judges who are overjoyed for the newly minted families."

For more information about adoption and profiles of some of Indiana's waiting children, click <a href="here">here</a>.

**About Indiana DCS:** DCS protects children who are victims of abuse or neglect and strengthens families through services that focus on family support and preservation. The Department also administers child support, child protection, adoption and foster care throughout the state of Indiana. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service Kidsline: 800.840.8757 or 317.233. www.in.qov/dcs