

Florida's National Adoption Month Events 2013

As additional events are submitted, they will be added to the Explore Adoption calendar at www.adoptflorida.org

Sarasota County Adoption Celebration

When: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Where: GT Bray Park, 51st Street West – signs for the park entrance are located on the street entrance

Description: The Sarasota Y is hosting an Adoption Picnic/Foster Family Picnic. There will be two bounce houses, face painter, crafts lady, relay races, and every child goes home with a toy or prize. Entertainment is being donated by a young man who was adopted and plays locally in a band. For more information please call Linda Jacobsen at (941) 371-4799 Ext. 184.

Attendees Expected: 300

Escambia County 5K and Fun Run

When: Saturday, November 2, 2013. Race starts at 8:00am CST, and the walk will begin shortly after. The event concludes at 11:30am.

Where: University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, Florida

Description: Community-wide 5K Run, Walk and Fun Time, Footprints to a Forever Family. Event includes the 5K race and 5K walk, awards, door prizes, music, food and lots of children's activities and information booths. Local media is invited. For more information, please call Peggy Custred at (850) 469-3847.

Attendees Expected: 300 runners and walkers and another couple hundred people to attend the activities portion.

Clay County Adoption Dinner Celebration

When: Thursday, November 7, 2013 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Where: St. Catherine Catholic Church (Haut Hall), 1649 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073

Description: With a Western theme, Kids First of Florida will host an adoption dinner celebrating our adoptive families and children. Prizes will be given and photos of the families will be taken. Please call Joan Underwood at (904) 278-5644 Ext. 2075 for more information.

Attendees Expected: 60 – 70

Hernando County Event

When: Friday, November 8, 2013 from 6pm-9pm

Where: Christian Church in the Wildwood 10051 Country Road, Weeki Wachee, FL

Description: Hernando County is hosting a "Dinner and a Movie" night during which dinner, a movie, games and activities will be provided. Please RSVP with the number of adults and children by Oct. 25, 2013 to Youth and Family Alternatives at 352-277-5860. The event is open to the public.

Volusia County Adoption Dinner Celebration

When: Friday, November 8, 2013 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Where: SW Sunset Harbor Yacht Club Ballowh Road Daytona Beach FL, 861 Ballowh Road Daytona Beach FL 32114

Description: Adoption finalizations at Yacht Club in Daytona Beach with light refreshments, opening with a video created by staff, various speakers and ending with adoption finalizations. Photos will be taken with families and judges after each adoption. Local media will be in attendance.

Special Guests: CEO Mark Jones, Community Partnership for Children; Board member and adoptive parent Robin King; and Tammy Auburn foster parent and adoptive parent of many special needs children. Judge Portuallo, Judge Clayton, and several other judges from the 7th Circuit will be in attendance and finalize adoptions.

Finalizations Expected: Projecting a total of 11 adoptions

Attendees Expected: 200

Bay County Adoption Finalizations and Celebration

When: Friday, November 8, 2013 at 11:00am

Where: Finalizations: Bay County Juvenile Court House, 533 East Eleventh Street Panama City, Florida

Luncheon: First Baptist Church, 32 West Sixth Street Panama City, Florida

Description: This year's theme is "Oh, the Places You'll Go". Adoptions will be finalized and then a luncheon to follow celebrating with our adoptive families, Judges, Children's Legal Services, Dependency staff members, Guardian ad Litem and other community partners. For more information, please contact Valerie Proctor at (850) 522-4485 Ext. 8359.

Special Guests: Judge Brantley Clark
Finalizations Expected: 6
Attendees Expected: 75

Marion County “Cowboy Up for Adoption”

When: Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 11:00am – 2:00pm

Where: The Florida Horse Park on S Hwy 475

Description: Lee Hart, a world champion horseman, will be with us displaying his Cowboy Logic. He will also be holding clinics afterward with proceeds going the waiting children in Marion County. We will also have tons of food and fun for the whole family, with bounce houses, an obstacle course and bungee run, pony rides and clowns. The event is open to the public.

Clay County Adoption Celebration

When: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 2:00pm

Where: Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Description: The local proclamation will be presented by one of the Clay County Commissioners to Kids First of Florida. An adoptive family will accept on behalf of Kids First of Florida. Please call Joan Underwood at (904) 278-5644 Ext. 2075 for more information.

Attendees Expected: 20 – 30

Special Guests: Clay County Commissioners

Jackson and Calhoun Adoption Finalizations and Celebration

When: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 11: 00am CST

Where: Citizen’s Lodge Park: 4577 Lodge Drive Marianna, Florida 32466

Description: This year’s theme is “Oh, the Places You’ll Go”. Adoptions will be finalized and then a luncheon to follow celebrating with our adoptive families, Judges, Children’s Legal Services, Dependency staff members, Guardian ad Litem and other community partners. For more information, please contact Valerie Proctor at (850) 522-4485 Ext. 8359.

Special Guests: Judge William Wright

Finalizations Expected: 1

Attendees Expected: 45

Sumter County Adoption Celebration

When: Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Where: Bushnell Courthouse, Bushnell, Florida

Description: Youth and Family Alternatives will be giving a presentation on foster care adoption and the needs that our children have while they wait for forever families. There will be time for mingling, learning and eating delicious snacks. The event is open to the public.

Washington and Holmes Adoption Finalizations and Celebration

When: Friday, November 15, 2013 at 11: 00am CST

Where: First Baptist Church of Chipley: 1300 South Blvd Chipley, Florida 32428

Description: This year’s theme is “Oh, the Places You’ll Go”. Adoptions will be finalized and then a luncheon to follow celebrating with our adoptive families, Judges, Children’s Legal Services, Dependency staff members, Guardian ad Litem and other community partners. For more information, please contact Valerie Proctor at (850) 522-4485 Ext. 8359.

Special Guests: Judge Christopher Patterson

Finalizations Expected: 6

Attendees Expected: 45

Hillsborough County Adoption Finalizations and Celebration

When: Friday, November 15, 2013

Where: George E. Edgecomb Courthouse, 800 E. Twiggs Street, Tampa Florida

Description: National Adoption Day celebration, in which children from our Hillsborough County foster care system are adopted. A light breakfast and lunch is being served. We are expecting local media coverage. Please contact Annette Nuebling at (813) for more information 455-9175.

Special Guests: Jalen Gibson (adoptive child): speaker; Khalilah Louis (Wendy's Wonderful Kid's Recruiter): singer; Mistress of Ceremonies: Lorita Shirley; Judge Essrig; Judge Peacock; Judge Corvo. Other distinguished guests are anticipated, but are not confirmed at this time.

Finalizations Expected: Approximately 30

Attendees Expected: Approximately 130 – 150

Escambia County Adoption Celebration

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 10:00am – 2:00pm CST

Where: Seville Square, Pensacola Florida

Description: "Fun Day in the Park" for adoptive families, waiting families and "waiting children". The event will include music provided by a local radio station, a photo booth, lots of games, activities and food. Event is being hosted by the Pensacola Young Professionals. In addition to inviting Families First Network staff and adoptive families and children the PYI has also invited participants of the Big Brother Big Sister Program to join in the celebration. CAT Country 98.7 will be broadcasting live from this event. For more information, please call Peggy Custred at (850) 469-3847.

Attendees Expected: We are hoping for 200-300 folks from our adoptive families, waiting approved adoptive families, children and staff. The Big Brothers and Big Sisters program anticipates 300-400 attendees.

Citrus County Adoption Celebration

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013

Where: Wooten Homosassa Wildlife Park

Description: Citrus County will be hosting an adoption celebration for recently adopted children and their new families. The event is open only to families who have adopted in or live in Citrus County.

Lake County Adoption Celebration

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Where: Wooten Park – 100 E Ruby St. Taveres, FL

Description: Lake County will be celebrating recent adoptions with children and their families. There will be food and fun for the whole family, with bounce houses, music, prizes, and clowns. The event is open to the public.

Escambia County Heart Gallery Exhibit

When: The Gallery Night is on Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 5:30pm – 8:00pm CST. The exhibit will run from November 11, 2013 – November 16, 2013.

Where: Artel Gallery, 223 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Description: Art of Adoption: Heart Gallery of the Gulf Coast Exhibit of pictures of children in foster care waiting for adoption. For more information, please call Peggy Custred at (850) 469-3847.

Treasure Coast Adoption Celebration

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 10:00am – 1:00pm

Where: Langford Park, 2325 NE Dixie Highway, Jensen Beach, Florida 34957

Description: Free picnic style event (light breakfast & lunch/snacks will be served). The event will be promoted in advance by local media (tv, newspapers, magazines, online, radio, etc.). also, traditionally a photographer from the local papers, magazines attend event for photo opportunities. For more information, please call Frank Avilla at (772) 429-2009.

Special Guests: Executive Directors from Children's Home Society, United for Families, Guardian ad Litem, and adoptive families. Entertainment by local musicians/entertainers, Local high school JROTC.

Attendees Expected: 250

Brevard County Walk and Fun Run for Love 5k

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013 – Run at 7:30am and Walk at 9am

Where: The run will begin and end at the Church of Viera at 9005 N. Wickham Rd., Viera.

Description: The Run for Love will raise awareness about National Adoption Month while bringing the community together to celebrate adoptive families and their children. In addition to adoptive families, residents of the county and business and community leaders are expected to participate. For more information and to register for both events, visit www.BrevardFP.org, www.RunforLove5K.org or call (321) 752-4650.

Attendees Expected: Over 500

Polk County Adoption Match Event

When: Saturday, November 16, 2013

Where: Cypress Lanes Bowling Alley – Winter Haven, Florida

Description: Polk County will host a pizza party and bowling event with potential approved adoptive families and teenagers available for adoption invited.

Alachua County Adoption Celebration

When: Sunday, November 17, 2013 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Where: Westside Park, 1001 NW 34th Blvd., Gainesville, FL

Description: Celebrating the 150 children adopted in Mid-Florida through Children's Home Society and raising awareness for the children still waiting, CHS is hosting Celebrate Adoption! For more information, please call Lashon Jenkins at (352) 244-1658.

Leon County Adoption Finalizations and Celebration

When: Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Where: Leon County Courthouse and Florida State Capitol Building, 22nd Floor Observatory

Description: Finalizations will occur in the Leon County Courthouse and celebration for the children in the Big Bend region of Florida by hosting a luncheon. Many of the children and families have not been to Florida's Capitol, and we think it will be a wonderful experience for them to celebrate their new family. For more information, please contact Paula Lane at (850) 488-0506 Ext 2050.

Finalizations Expected: 5 – 10

Attendees Expected: 75

Polk County Adoption Day Celebration

When: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:00pm-2:30pm

Where: Polk County Court House

Description: Circuit 10 will host a luncheon with door prizes, cake, and photo opportunities to celebrate new adoptions. Some adoptions will also be finalized that day at 2:30pm.

Osceola County Adoption Celebration

When: Friday, November 22, 2013 from 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Where: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741

Description: Community Based Care of Central Florida will have a reception with dessert and snacks throughout the afternoon, and media will be invited. If you would like more information, please contact Shannon Caruso at (407) 490-6739.

Finalizations Expected: 10 – 15

Attendees Expected: 50 – 75

Special Guests: Judge Keith A. Carsten, presiding

Palm Beach County Adoption Celebration

When: Friday, November 22, 2013 at 12:00pm

Where: 205 North Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Description: Palm Beach County National Adoption Day Celebration: This fun filled day will include finalizations, ceremony, media, live entertainment, awards and delicious fare celebrating all families who adopt and those who create forever families for waiting children. If you would like more information, please contact Nicole Redford at (561) 868-4343.

Finalizations Expected: 12 – 15

Attendees Expected: 150

Special Guests: Jim Sackett will give out the Jim Sackett Award to this year's recipient. Other speakers TBA.

Manatee County Adoption Finalizations and Celebration

When: Friday, November 22, 2013 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Where: Manatee Court House, 1115 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, Florida 34205

Description: Adoptions will be finalized at the courthouse. For more information, please call Dara Palmieri at (941) 371-4799.

Finalizations Expected: TBD

Attendees Expected: TBD

Broward County Adoption Celebration

When: Saturday, November 23, 2013 from 8am to 1pm.

Where: Broward County Courts - 201 SE 6th St. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Description: Finalizations and celebration will occur at the Broward County Courthouse. If you would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Wynter at ewynter@childnet.us or Christopher Pitts at cpitts@childnet.us. Both can be reached at 954-414-6000 Ext. 8043 and 8036

Finalizations Expected: 20-25

Attendees Expected: 50 – 75

Special Guests: Judges and a possible speaker