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## Events celebrate adoptions

LANSING STATE JOURNAL • NOVEMBER 13, 2008 • FROM LSJ.COM

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Photographs of Michigan children waiting to be adopted are on display at the Hall of Justice in downtown Lansing until Nov. 25.

**ADVERTISEMENT** The exhibit is located on the building's first floor at 925 W. Ottawa St. It can be viewed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

Thirty Michigan counties are holding Adoption Day events on or near Nov. 25 - the date designated by the Michigan Supreme Court as "Michigan Adoption Day."

"Michigan Adoption Day gives the public a window into the adoption process," said Chief Justice Clifford Taylor. "This is a celebration of adoption, but it's also very much about educating the public as to the challenges and great rewards of being an adoptive or foster parent."

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BECKY SHINK/Lansing State Journal

Nicole Thomson, of Beverly Hills, looks over the the Michigan Heart Gallery on display at the Hall of Justice. The exhibit highlights Michigan children waiting to be adopted. The exhibit is located on the building's first floor at 925 W. Ottawa St. It can be viewed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Anyone interested in adopting a child can contact the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange at (800) 589-6273 or go to [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).

For more information about Michigan Adoption Day events, visit

[www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm](http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm).

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Care says: Second Parent Adoption provides children being raised by unmarried parents the legal, financial, and psychological protections that two parents provide.

Under current adoption law in Michigan, parental rights are restricted to either married couples or single individuals. This policy makes obtaining a joint legal partnership nearly impossible for two unmarried individuals wishing to raise a child together. When two unmarried parents have adopted, current adoption code policy also imposes a dangerous intermediate step. A child's legal parent must sign away his or her rights and place the child in state custody before both parents will be awarded joint custody. This puts family in a very precarious situation.

11/14/2008 2:09:40 AM

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