

[PDA site] Customer service: [Subscribe now](#) | [Pay a bill](#) | [Place a classified ad](#) | [Contact U](#)

[LSJ.com](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Video](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Dating](#) | [Weather](#)

SEARCH: **S M T W Th F Sa** All

Wednesday, November 29, 2006

Sponsored by Coldwell Banker Hubbell Real Estate Co.

Clinton County

[Clinton County News](#)

[Business](#)

[County](#)

[Family](#)

[Opinion](#)

[Lifestyle](#)

[Prep Sports](#)

[Recreation](#)

[Schools](#)

NEWS

[Business](#)

[Blogs](#)

[Campus](#)

[Capitol](#)

[Celebrations](#)

[Columnists](#)

[E-Technology](#)

[Forums](#)

[Local News](#)

[National/World](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Photo Store](#)

[Schools](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



[Email it](#) [Print it](#) [Get E-headlines](#) [XML](#) [Get RSS feeds](#)

Published November 26, 2006
[From Clinton County News]

Eleven local adoptions highlight Adoption Day

By Sue Lounds
Editor

ST. JOHNS — Four area families had some very special reasons to be thankful this Thanksgiving. The families finalized the adoption of 11 children as part of Clinton County’s third annual participation in Michigan Adoption Day Nov. 21.

Judge Lisa Sullivan of Clinton County Family Court presided over the special adoption ceremony, as she has done each Adoption Day. Before beginning the finalizations, Sullivan shared some thoughts with the large crowd gathered for the celebration.

“There is a quotation in today’s program that says “There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.” Sullivan said. “Today is that moment for these children.”

[Enlarge photo](#)



- [Travel](#)
- [Xtras](#)
- [Corrections](#)
- SPORTS**
- [Golf](#)
- [Lugnuts](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [MSU Sports](#)
- [Prep Sports](#)
- LIFE**
- [Faith & Values](#)
- [Family](#)
- [Food & Drink](#)
- [Health & Fitness](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Worship Directory](#)
- ENTERTAINMENT**
- [Arts](#)
- [Boredom Busters](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Escapes](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [TV Listings](#)
- [Music](#)
- [People](#)
- COMMUNITIES**
- [Bath](#)
- [Charlotte](#)

Sullivan said Adoption Day is about the new families and the security and permanence they give to the children, but she said it is more too.

“It’s about showing you the families that have taken the steps to open their homes, their lives, their hearts to these children,” Sullivan said to the large crowd gathered in the Board of Commissioners room at the Clinton County Courthouse.

Bev and Joe Travis adopted Sara Rose, bringing their family to seven — two adults, five children plus another foster daughter. The Travises have been foster parents for about five years. They have now adopted three of their children, and those three were all their foster children first.

“One of my hopes for today is to bring new awareness of the need for foster care,” Sullivan said. “So often we hear the exception stories, not the stories of all the wonderful foster families who give security and love to our foster children.”

One couple opened their hearts to twin girls, who join a big brother, to make a big happy family of five. They asked that their names and pictures not be published, but they to shared the special event with those in attendance Nov. 21.

“This is what God had planned for us,” said the new mother of three. Kierstin became a full-fledged member of the Litwiller family Nov. 21.

The bubbly little red-head joins sisters Kayla and Kylie, brother Karson and parents Kevin and Jamie. Her adoption was a step-child adoption, another form of adoption.

The final family of the afternoon was also the largest. Mary Pino and her daughter Annie quadrupled the size of their family. Mary officially adopted a young woman who has been part of her life, as a foster child, for many years.

“I can only hope that the foster care I provided, and that a couple of other families gave her, gave Tawny some of her childhood back,” said Pino. “I’ve waited forever for this,” said Tawny.

Pino also adopted six children, all from one family. David, Anna, Juan, Addison, Cristian and Adora are now officially part of one large family.

(Photo by Sue Lounds | LCN)
Kierstin Litwiller (front, right) became an official Litwiller during Adoption Day Nov. 21. She joins parents Kent and Jamie, sisters Kayla and Kylie and brother Karson. Judge Lisa Sullivan congratulated the entire family on the adoption.

Related news from the Web

Latest headlines by topic:

- [Thanksgiving](#)
- [Holidays](#)
- [Life](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

The image shows a Careerbuilder logo at the top with the text 'ONLINE VIDEO' and 'View all Top Job Videos'. Below this is a dropdown menu with the following items: 'View All', 'Drivers' (with sub-item 'McEwen Trucking'), 'Environmental' (with sub-item 'Confidential'), and 'Stock Analyst' (with sub-item 'Michigan Dept. of Treasury').

[Delta-Waverly](#)

[DeWitt](#)

[East Lansing](#)

[Eaton Rapids](#)

[Grand Ledge](#)

[Haslett](#)

[Holt](#)

[Lansing](#)

[Mason](#)

[Okemos](#)

[Portland](#)

[St. Johns](#)

[Williamston](#)

CUSTOMER SERVICE

[Contact Us](#)

Each adoption was greeted by applause from the supporters in attendance. Judge Sullivan acknowledged the audience and the role they played in the adoptions.

“You didn’t come here alone,” Sullivan said to the adopting parents. “You brought your support network.”

Sullivan also acknowledged the biological parents of the children. Some of them made the voluntary decision to “give their children up” for adoption.

“I think that phrase ‘give them up’ is a misnomer,” Sullivan said. “Those parents made plans for their children. They knew they can’t provide for their children. The unselfishness involved in that decision should be acknowledged.”



This article does not have any comments associated with it

[Post a Comment](#)



Subscribe to the Lansing State Journal

[Email it](#)

[Print it](#)

[Get E-headlines](#)

[Get RSS feeds](#)



[Customer Service](#) | [Subscribe now](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright ©2006 LSJ.com All rights reserved. Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) (Terms updated September, 2005)

Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) - [Cars: cars.com](#) - [Apartments: apartments.com](#) - [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

Questions about this site? online@lsj.com