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Local News

Jazlyn, family rejoice in adoption ceremony

By Michael Jones, Staff Writer

LIVINGSTON TWP. - Wearing a festive party dress and a dazzling smile 8-year-old Jazlyn was the center of attention in Judge Michael Cooper's courtroom earlier this month as he finalized the adoption of the St. Mary Cathedral School student to her new parents.

The room was filled, first and foremost, with Jazlyn's soon-to-be parents, Mike and Kathy Wilde, their adopted daughters Joanna, 18, and Jaicie, 15, grandparents, family and friends and Jazlyn's entire third-grade class - who had all crowded into Room 102 at 87th District Court to witness the event.

It was a festive mood which greeted Judge Cooper, who presided over the adoption which made the 8-year-old the official and permanent daughter of the Wildes, who had taken the young lady into their home more than a year ago as a foster child.



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"This is the best time for me in court," Cooper said, addressing the collected well-wishers who came to see the judge finalize the Nov. 8 adoption during Adoption Month in Michigan. Tuesday was the fourth Annual Michigan Adoption Day, a day of celebration intended to draw attention to the adoption process and to the thousands of foster children across the state in need of permanent homes.

Jazlyn's new mom, Kathy, who married Mike a year-and-a-half ago, adopted sisters Joanna and Jaicie five years ago. Speaking at the adoption proceeding, Kathy told Judge Cooper it was "God's will" that her new daughter came into her life. "I knew Jazlyn when she was a baby. I never thought this would ever have happened. I know it must be God's will that it did. We are so happy to have Jazlyn in our lives."

Mike Wilde explained the events which brought their new daughter into his and Kathy's lives. A couple of year's ago Jazlyn's birth mother was living in California and because of personal problems, was no longer able to care for her daughter and put Jazlyn on a plane back to Michigan to live with her sister.

"Kathy had been a Big Sister to Jazlyn's mother's sister, who now lives in Cadillac," explained Mike. "She wasn't able to keep Jazlyn but she remembered Kathy and asked if Jazlyn could come live with her."

The Wildes welcomed the opportunity to add to their family and put the wheels in motion to adopt Jazlyn shortly after she came to live with the couple.

"This is something we have been a part of for the past several years," said Cooper of the court's support

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of the Michigan Adoption Day program. Today (Saturday) Cooper will have the privilege to preside over finalizing several more adoptions in his courtroom.

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