





Visit these fine glass retailers near you and ask for Carlite or click here to find

Overcast, 42°
5 day forecast

THE OAKLAND PRESS

The best place for news in and around Oakland County, Michigan

Subscribe | Place A Classified Ad | Local Video | Newspaper Ads | Blogs | Special

Chocolate hoodia Curb Bites Click here

Natural vitamin & Market Stores

Extra Discounts Available With Online Coupon

SITE MENU...

[HOME](#) > [Local News](#) > [Families celebrate adoption day](#)

Local News




Email Print

PUBLISHED: Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Families celebrate adoption day

By **ANN ZANIEWSKI**
Of The Oakland Press



Leann Wells of Northville watches her newly adopted son, Zachary, 7

PONTIAC Just in time for Thanksgiving, several Oakland County families celebrated the final step in the adoption process Tuesday and welcomed new sons, daughters and siblings.

"It's fantastic," said a beaming Brian Wells of Northville minutes after his baby son Zachary's adoption was finalized at a Michigan Adoption Day ceremony.

Two families - the Wellses and the Ashbas of Davisburg adopted a child during hearings that were part of the ceremony at the Oakland County Board of Commission Auditorium in Pontiac. Nineteen other adoptions were finalized Tuesday in various circuit judges' courtrooms.

Oakland Circuit Judge James Alexander, who presides over the court's Family Division, said the goal of Adoptio Day is to promote adoption awareness and celebrate families. More than 30 courts in the state participate.

months, play with his big brother Jacob, 5, during an award ceremony Tuesday.

The Oakland Press/VAUGHN GURGANIAN

"This is the best day to be a judge," Alexander said.

Brian Wells' wife, Leann, said she felt relieved after Zachary's adoption was finalized.

"We've waited a long time for Zach," she said.

The 7-month-old was left at an Oakland County hospital in March under a law that allows parer to leave newborns at hospitals, police departments or fire stations without penalty. He has lived with the Wells family since he was 3 days old.

"He smiles constantly," Leann Wells said. "And Jacob (the Wells' 5-year-old adopted son) love: him to death."

The adoption of 8-year-old Shyanne Ashba also was finalized during the ceremony. Parents G and Tamara Ashba posed for pictures afterward.

"It just makes everything very permanent," Tamara Ashba said, smiling.

Shyanne, a second-grader at Andersonville Elementary School, said she felt good about her adoption.

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan, who helped start Michigan Adoption Day, als spoke at the ceremony.

She said 2,500 children were adopted in Michigan last year, while 4,300 children are waiting fo adoptive families. About 13,000 children have been adopted in the state since the inception of Adoption Day, which is in its fifth year.

Alexander presented members of the Family Court's adoption unit with the Arthur Eugene Moo Champion of Children Award. Members of the division include Luran Howard, Palmer Sesti, Debby Anthony, Julie Berz, Brenda Kelly, Marilyn McAllister, Gabrielle Osooli and Laura Roma Christman.

The Metropolitan Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators donated backpacks stuffe with crayons, paper, scissors and other items for the children and their siblings to take home.

Contact staff writer Ann Zaniewski at (248) 745-4628 or ann.zaniewski@oakpress.com.



[Feedback](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Place A Classified Ad](#) | [Copyright © 2007 The Oakland Press, All Rights Reserved](#)

|
[Interested in a career at Journal Register Company, click here](#)