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Every child deserves the gift of a loving, stable home 365 days of the year | Opinion

By Katie Ginsberg
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Left to Right, Levi in the arms of dad Israel, while mom Dimaris speaks; and Aries, Noah, and Oliver Santos look on. The family were the guest speakers during the National Adoption Day celebration at the Osceola County Courthouse in downtown Kissimmee, on Friday, November 18, 2022. (Ricardo Ramirez Buxeda/Orlando Sentinel)

Each year, events across the country and the world take place the Saturday before Thanksgiving to promote adoption. But while National Adoption Day has recently come and gone, for 364 other days of the year, thousands of children are still waiting for loving individuals and families to adopt them.

What is it like to know you have just created a new family? How does it feel the moment you know that a child, who previously was all alone in the world, now has someone, a parent, to care for them forever? There are very few words that can describe this feeling.

All the worry of whether this child is going to be OK, whether they are going to be loved, whether they will have a childhood at all — all drift into the past. It brings an incredible sense of relief.



Katie Ginsberg, LCSW, is Director of Foster Care and Adoption for Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options (JAFCO) in Sunrise.

According to the [Adoption Network](#), although no more than 2% of Americans have actually adopted, more than one-third have considered it. There are about 1.5 million adopted children in the United States and about 135,000 children are adopted each year.

Despite the statistics, as a social worker, I have been in Family Court a hundred times with many of the same people and on the days a child is adopted, the often somber air of the courtroom changes to a place filled with light.

The faces that were cemented with concern beam with hope. Maybe the child is a toddler with little understanding of what is really happening, or maybe they are older and feel the magnitude of this moment. Either way, they are now safe, and they are loved.

“This is forever, it is like blood,” the judge says emphatically to the adoptive parents, making it clear to them that their commitment to this child is forever — it is no different than a child born biologically into a family. But at that moment, it is clear to me that this child was meant for this family. This child has experienced more trauma than many of us will experience in our lifetime. Yet, this family has chosen them. Everyone in this courtroom feels it.

As I stand to the side and observe what is happening in this moment, I cannot imagine this child growing with any other parents, and I think of what the future will bring for them. I know it will not be easy, and the road will likely be filled with bumps and detours. Yet safety and love come with this commitment.

The child doesn't have to worry any longer if they will be wanted. That is proven now. The judge steps down from his bench and presents the family with a children's book about adoption. He hugs each family member with a huge smile court observers rarely see on his face. “This is the best part of my job,” he says. I've often found myself fighting back tears of joy. It's mine too.

Please consider being one member of that 2%. Please consider being one of those special people who move past simply thinking about adopting and become one who will say “yes” to providing a loving, stable forever home. National Adoption Day may have come, but the need goes on.

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