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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM TO HOST NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY CELEBRATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Chicago, IL — There are more than 110,000 children in the foster care system nationwide and in Illinois nearly 1,400 children await adoption into permanent, loving homes. Chicago Children's Museum is the first cultural institution in Illinois to partner with Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to celebrate the creation of new families by adoption on National Adoption Day. More than 100 adoptive family members are expected to attend the celebration on Saturday, November 18 from 5-8pm at Chicago Children's Museum.

National Adoption Day is a collective nationwide effort to raise awareness of the children in foster care. Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) partnered to honor these new families in an evening of play-filled fun.

"The creation of families always calls for a celebration," said CCM President and CEO Jennifer Farrington. "We are proud to partner with DCFS to commemorate this important milestone of beginnings for these families."

"Chicago Children's Museum offers a dynamic opportunity for our children and families to come together and engage in a positive and meaningful way. It's also a great place for parents, guardians, and children to celebrate becoming a family on National Adoption Day," said DCFS Acting Director B.J. Walker. "This unique and wonderful experience will be cherished for years to come."

DCFS Acting Director B.J. Walker is scheduled to appear. The celebration will open with welcoming comments from Walker, congratulating the newly formed families. Following the proceedings, families will be able to enjoy Chicago Children's Museum's programs and exhibits.

National Adoption Day is an annual event to raise public awareness of the need for adoptive homes and celebrate the families and children whose adoptions were finalized in the past year. Thanks to thousands of adoptive parents across Illinois, more than 15,000 children have found permanent homes during the last decade, including 1,818

children in the last year alone. If interested in learning more about becoming a foster/adoptive parent, call (800) 572-2390.

About Chicago Children's Museum

The mission of Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) is to improve children's lives by creating a community where play and learning connect. CCM is dedicated to young children and the important adults in their lives. Play-filled experiences, including more than 15 interactive exhibits and daily programming, tap into how kids learn, and engage from ages 0-10 to develop the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. CCM aims to deliver at least one-third of its total annual attendance to low-income or underserved community members. In its last fiscal year, CCM hosted more than 412,000 visitors. For more information, please visit www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org.

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