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For Immediate Release

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**Williamson County Courthouse creates forever families
for 18 children during National Adoption Day celebration**
November is Adoption Awareness Month in Illinois

Marion – On Monday, November 19, 2018 the Williamson County Courthouse in Marion will join hundreds of courthouses across the country in honor of National Adoption Day to finalize the adoptions of 18 children in foster care who have been waiting for permanent, loving homes.

Circuit Judge John Sanders, Illinois DCFS and private agency staff will come together to make the day memorable for these new families. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and the finalizations will begin at 9 a.m. A celebration, including refreshments for the families, will follow.

"I am looking forward to presiding over approximately 18 adoptions on that day. It is always a privilege to observe the joy the parents and their new children have when an adoption is finalized," said Judge Sanders.

"We are extremely blessed with this coordinated effort to allow many children to find permanency in their forever homes," said Hope Carbonaro, DCFS southern region administrator.

National Adoption Day, held annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, is a collective, national effort to raise awareness of the more than 110,000 youth in foster care who are waiting for families to call their own. National Adoption Day events are also taking place in Edwardsville, Rockford and Chicago.

National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, advocates and policymakers to finalize adoptions and create and celebrate adoptive families. Since its inception in 2000, National Adoption Day has helped nearly 70,000 children across the country move from foster care to forever families. In 2017, nearly 5,000 children were adopted on this special day.

To learn more about National Adoption Day, visit www.nationaladoptionday.org.

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