

# *Memorable Day For Lorenzo And His New Forever Family*



The Sixth Judicial Circuit Courtroom of Circuit Judge Raymond Gross was the site for a big celebration on Feb. 24, when 17-year-old Lorenzo (left) became part of Carolyn Newsom's family. The adoption was finalized just four days before Lorenzo's 18th

birthday, when he would have aged out of Florida's foster care system. • Ms. Newsom found out about Lorenzo and his longing to have a family that could watch him graduate from Boca Ciega High School when she wandered into the filming of a Heart Gallery segment. Heart Gallery promotes adoptions of children in foster care, and Lorenzo was making one final appearance in hopes of becoming part of a forever family. He had been in foster care



*Judge Gross and the new family were joined for the first family portrait by Judge Irene Sullivan, who was assigned to Lorenzo's adoption. Judge Gross helped out because of a crowded calendar day for Judge Sullivan, who did not want to delay Lorenzo's dream any longer. Judge Sullivan took a brief break to join the celebration.*

for 13 years. • Approximately 120 children are currently in foster care in Pinellas and Pasco counties. Children who will age out of the system at 18 without ever having experienced a family that shares their dreams, witnesses their achievements and gives them love to pass on to other kids.



*Lorenzo is all smiles as he, his new sister and Ms. Newsom listen as Judge Gross announces that he is signing the order making Lorenzo part of the Newsom family.*



*Lorenzo and Ms. Newsom are interviewed by local news reporters, who had a big interest in the emotional story. To view coverage by local TV stations, [click here.](#)*