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A Total of 37 Children Are Adopted At Separate Adoption Day Events In The Sixth Judicial Circuit

CLEARWATER - At the Sixth Judicial Circuit’s two celebrations of National Adoption Day this year — one in Pasco County on Nov. 3, a second in Pinellas County on Nov. 17 — a total of 37 children were adopted into 32 families.

At the Pasco celebration, held at the New Port Richey courthouse, the featured speaker was Carey Thurman, who, with her husband Michael, have adopted four children and were on their way to adopting the fifth.

After their daughter was born, Carey and Michael just wanted more children in their home, so they started opening it up to foster children. It didn’t turn out to be a temporary arrangement, however. The Thurmans grew to love their little charges, and in the end, they adopted five of them.

They just didn’t get a large family, however. They also got a musical band, “The Heart of the Heroes.” which comprises children who were either adopted or whose parents have adopted other children. The Thurmans’ biological daughter is one of the players, as are a few of the couple’s adopted children.

“The Heart of the Heroes” played a few numbers as part of the celebration on Nov. 3. Fox News did a segment on the event.



The Heart of the Heroes



Josh and Cassie Hollingsworth and their daughter

The Pinellas celebration was held two weeks later, on Nov. 17, at the County Justice Center in Clearwater, and it featured two families who offered to speak of their adoption experience. One was Cassie and Josh Hollingsworth. Already blessed with two biological sons, the couple decided to adopt their first daughter, who, as it turned out, was born addicted to drugs. Coincidentally, the girl turned 4 that Friday, on Nov. 17.

The other speaker was Tony Vaughn. Tony and his wife were unable to have children of their own, so they adopted 11-year-old DJ, who had already been rejected by two prospective homes. Like the Pasco Adoption Day ceremony, Pinellas’s was well covered by the local news media, with segments that aired that evening on WFLA News Channel 8 and Bay News 9. In fact, the master of ceremonies was Bay News 9 anchor Al Ruechel.



Tony Vaughn and DJ