



Happy holidays to you and your families during this special time of the year!

Hanukah is the Festival of Lights while Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ. African American life is honored during Kwanzaa and Three Kings Day (El Dia de los Reyes) occurs on the 12th day of Christmas. The Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter and is also the shortest day of the year.

Our celebrations reflect the diversity in all of us while we share one common theme - supporting one another.

2022 was again memorable for many reasons. You are resilient, our families are stronger because of our efforts and thousands of children across Connecticut are better off because of our work - and living safely at home.

Our safety practice this year has evolved and must remain in the forefront of each decision we make along with our community partners. The focus on child safety will continue in the new year as we enhance our practice and embrace the challenges ahead!

"Home for the Holidays" is the theme of this month's *Spotlight on What's Right* newsletter.

We have achieved permanency for over 1,150 children this year who are home for the holidays - including more than 440 adoptions and over 300 transfers of guardianship.



Our collective efforts have resulted in over 400 children being safely reunified!

It has been featured by many media outlets including with Scott Haney and the "Great Day" at 9:00 a.m. team at WFSB. See the interview here: [Great Day](#)



A year ago, Deborah Franklin's twins were removed. Read about her journey to overcome years of intergenerational trauma, domestic violence and substance abuse. "I walked out of Hell barefoot", she stated. The smiles of the faces of Allisa and Ava tell us all what reunification is all about! Listen as Deborah tells parts of her courageous story: [FOX 61](#)

"I have a strong determination and will power. I wanted my daughters in my care," stated John Little. Leilani and Zyanna are now home with their father. It was not an easy road, but one John so eagerly was willing to tell. Read his story and look for the pictures of the beautifully painted walls which awaited these little girls when they walked through the doors.

The permanency numbers do not even consider the thousands of children who were able to remain safely at home and were never separated from their parents. The collective efforts of DCF and our community partners made this possible!



One such support for our families is the Olive Branch Toy Shop - the vision of Jackie Ford in the Office of Community Relations. It was developed with the unique approach to have families come to the Olive Branch and pick out items themselves - for their own children - empowering and respecting their role as parents. Each family has the opportunity to "shop" for free, picking gifts that they know their children will enjoy. It is open by appointment to families who have open DCF cases. Watch

one story here: [Olive Branch](#)

Please take some time this holiday season to rest, relax and reflect back on all of your accomplishments!

I truly appreciate each and every one of your efforts!

Happy Holidays!