

## Commissioner's Message



There are various ways families are formed - adoption is one special way to achieve that goal.

These words came true as we celebrated November as **National Adoption Month!** During **Connecticut's Adoption Day**, 49 children achieve legal permanency bringing the total number of adoptions this year to over 440 and approximately 1,700 in the past 4 years!

Adoption is merely one form of permanency.

Since 2019, we have reduced the number of children in out of home care by approximately 30% which includes over 2,400 children being safely reunified and over 1,400 children reaching permanency via transfer of guardianship.

Our sincere gratitude to our partners in the Judicial Branch, especially the Judges in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters, who opened their courtrooms across the state.



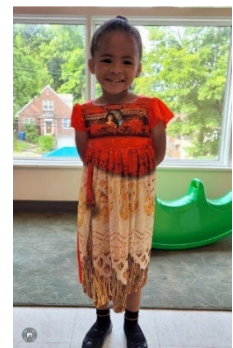
Thank you to Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz who participated in the adoption of "Nate the Great" in Waterbury - finding permanency with two former teachers! Watch Nate here: [Nate the Great](#)

Our "*Spotlight on What's Right*" newsletter highlights some remarkable families and their journeys to adopt.

"*Small Steps Open Doors*," is the theme of Adoption Month which places emphasis on pursuing permanent families for teenagers. Read as 13 year-old Daemion and Kimberly are now a family and how "messy love" is all part of their relationship: [Hartford Courant- Daemion's story](#)

The Santos family continued answering the telephone when DCF called! On Adoption Day they completed their third adoption. "I feel so lucky they were born," stated Sandra Santos. Will the phone ring again?

Elias is the "why" for one family who wished to raise a child. As he banged the gavel, a forever family was formed. Watch his special story here: [Glastonbury Couple Officially Adopts Son on National Adoption Day](#)



Celebrations occurred across the state.

Lilly decided it was best to make herself comfortable on the courtroom floor. Her mother, Keren Clarizio, has now adopted three children including two siblings years apart. Watch her story here: [Forever Homes](#) and [It's worth it.](#)



No room was left on the courthouse steps for the picture after Alyza and Luna were adopted! Quite a family!

The Paulhus family invited the media right into their living room as their last adoption - one of three adoptions in five years - was finalized: [Zeke](#)

Ongoing supports are available for families after they adopt, or guardianship is transferred. The UCONN Health Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) provides post-adoption support, including assessment, education, brief counseling, and referral services to adoptive families and to families formed through guardianship. Information about AAP can be obtained by visiting the [Adoption Assistance Program](#) website, by calling (877) 679-1961 or by e-mail at [aap@uchc.edu](mailto:aap@uchc.edu)

Whether it's stepping up for kids with complex needs, sibling groups, teens or young people identifying as LGBTQIA+, Connecticut's families have continued to take the step towards opening their hearts and homes for all children in need. It is with much gratitude we say thank you today and every day.

Great job everyone!