



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2014**

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PRESS RELEASE: Monday, September 8th –September 12th

**Board of Supervisors to Proclaim September 8 – 12, 2014
“Family Reunification Week.”**

From 2004 through 2013, nearly 60,000 children were reunified with their families in Los Angeles County.

Families to share their inspirational stories at three special events.

(LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014) – On September 9, 2014, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will proclaim the week of September 8th 2014 “Family Reunification Week.” Five years ago, Michael Nash, Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court, with the support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), initiated the first ever “Family Reunification Week,” celebrating the thousands of families that each year safely reunite with their children. From 2004 through 2013, nearly 60,000 children were reunified with their families in Los Angeles County. This year’s celebration will include three special events throughout the week that media are invited to attend at which families will share their emotional stories that led to their reunification.

On **Tuesday, September 9th**, five “Family Reunification Heroes,” including three mothers, one father, and a caseworker with the Asian American Drug Abuse Program, will be recognized by the Board Supervisors for their exemplary efforts in supporting the safe return of children to their homes and families.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

On **Wednesday, September 10th**, media is invited to attend the grand opening of the Parents in Partnership office at Juvenile Court. Parents in Partnership (PIP) are a committed group of parents who have successfully navigated the Dependency Court system to safely reunify with their children and subsequently partner with DCFS to provide information, training, and mentoring to newly involved families at DCFS. The PIP Program is now located at Juvenile Court to provide firsthand support and guidance to those families attending their initial court hearings. The Parent Partners and recently reunified families will be on hand to share their stories with the media.

On **Friday, September 12th**, media is invited to attend the 2nd annual “Family Reunification Day at Court,” where **reporters can enter court rooms to witness the reunification of children with their parents and the official termination of their involvement with Dependency Court. Families will be available for interviews with the media.**

“When it comes to reunification, the system actually accomplishes that more often than not. Of the nearly 28,000 children under our court’s jurisdiction today, almost 17,800 are either being safely maintained at home or are in a reunification plan with their families,” said Michael Nash, Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court.

DCFS Director Philip L. Browning stated: “There is no greater accomplishment a parent can achieve than resolving family conflicts that provide for the safety of their children. Children raised in safe, stable, and loving homes are more likely to pursue healthy lifestyles and become valuable members of the community. Each year, thousands of our parents do whatever is necessary to safeguard the well-being of their children in making their families whole again. They are to be congratulated for their outstanding efforts. From 2004 through 2013, nearly 60,000 children were reunified with their families in Los Angeles County. The Board of Supervisors, Judge Nash, DCFS, Juvenile Court staff and attorneys, our dedicated DCFS social workers and our many community partners join in congratulating these parents in making safe family reunification their number one priority.

The Family Reunification Week Partners include: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles Juvenile Court, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc., Children’s Law Center of California, County Counsel’s Dependency Division and CASA of Los Angeles.

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