

NEWS RELEASE



Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 21, 2024

Contact: Greta Johnson
Director of Communications & Assistant Chief of Staff
Office of Executive Shapiro
ExecutivePress@summitoh.net
330-643-2656

Summit County celebrates National Adoption Day, encourages foster-to-adopt

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council are proud to recognize National Adoption Day this Saturday, November 23. National Adoption Day was launched twenty-five years ago by a coalition of national partners, including the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, and Children Action’s Network, to raise awareness for the safety and wellbeing of all children, as well as celebrating the joy of adoption.

At the core of National Adoption Day is the belief that every child deserves a safe, loving family, with stability and permanency. Summit County Children Services (SCCS) works on the front lines every day providing care and support to some of our most vulnerable children in Summit County. SCCS has over 860 children in custody today, with 200 of these children in permanent custody. Over 60 children have no specific plan for permanency.

“We might not talk about it much, but so many of our families, friends and neighbors have been impacted by adoption,” said Executive Shapiro. “And while we continue to have children in need of their forever families, it is crucial that we raise awareness about the option of fostering and fostering-to-adopt.”

Children in the care of SCCS become available for adoption only after reunification with their biological family is not possible due to safety concerns. Nearly 40% of children are placed with kinship or non-kinship homes, but the remaining children are in need of foster homes.

Common misconceptions about eligibility requirements to become a foster parent may prevent interested families from applying. Residents are encouraged to learn about the requirements and benefits of becoming a foster parent in Summit County. Visit <https://www.summitkids.org/child-services/foster-care/>

###