



[Home Page](#) > [News](#) > [Local](#) > [D.C. News](#) > D.C. Stories

Adoption day brings joy to local families

November 21, 2009 - 5:13pm

[Patricia Guadalupe](#), wtop.com

WASHINGTON - Some D.C. families started a new chapter Saturday celebrating annual adoption day together.

There were plenty of smiles and laughter going on inside the D.C. Superior courthouse as new parents and children rejoiced over their unions. More than 30 adoptions were finalized during a special ceremony on Saturday. It is the 23rd straight year that adoption day has been celebrated.

"You see it as a double blessing," says Patricia Donald. The DC resident adopted two special needs children after her biological children left home. "They bless me as much as I bless them," she says.

There are nearly 200 children in foster care in the city, ranging in ages from one year-old to 16. This year, adoptions are down in D.C. from last year, with just 177 children being placed in foster homes. In 2008, D.C. Child and Family Services were able to find adoptive parents for 195 children.

Sharita Grant, a single mother from Southeast, expanded her household to six children.

Several years ago, Grant adopted three siblings - two boys and a girl now in their teens. She says it came to her in a dream that she needed to adopt their three youngest siblings because it was the right thing to do to keep the family together.

"That was before I knew they were in trouble before I knew that they needed my help," Grant says. Grant's mother will help her raise the kids. The family was planning to celebrate by going to the movies.

The event at the courthouse not only brought families together, but was also a forum to encourage other residents to think about becoming foster parents.

One little girl who was in foster care says being placed with a family means so much to her.

"I'm glad that I am being adopted and now I know everybody in my family loves me," she says.

If you are interested in adoption, call (202)671-LOVE, or visit the District of Columbia's [Child and Family Services Agency](#) website.

(Copyright 2009 by WTOP. All Rights Reserved.)

vote now

[< Back](#)
