



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

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5886

PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2013**

Contact: Neil Zanville or Dominique Robinson
DCFS Office of Public Affairs
(213) 351-5886, Day of the Event: (213) 471-6302

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PRESS RELEASE- Tuesday, September 17th

**Board of Supervisors to Proclaim September 16 – 20, 2013
“Family Reunification Week.”**

From 2003 through 2012, more than 66,000 children were reunified with their families in Los Angeles County, an average of nearly 6,600 children a year.”

Families to share inspirational stories at two special events.

(LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013) – On September 17, 2013, it is expected that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will proclaim the week of September 16th 2013 “Family Reunification Week.” Four 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. In 2012, 6,000 children were safely returned to their parent’s home.

On Tuesday, September 11th, six “Family Reunification Heroes,” including a father, two mothers, a social worker, Friends of the Family (an innovative family resource center) and the 2-1-1 Children’s’ Court Project (a service providing resources to parents) will be recognized by the Board Supervisors for their exemplary efforts in supporting the safe return of children to their homes and families.

On Friday, September 20th, media is invited to attend an unprecedented event—“Family Reunification Day at Court,” where **reporters can enter court rooms to witness the reunification of children with their parents. 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 17,400 are either

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

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: “These parents are to be congratulated for making their children’s well-being and safety, their number one priority. From 2003 through 2012, more than 66,000 children were reunified with their families in Los Angeles County, an average of almost 6,600 children a year. Their efforts are supported by our Board of Supervisors, Judge Nash and our Children’s Court, the many court attorneys, our dedicated DCFS social workers and our many community partners all working towards the same goal --- safe family reunification.

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

To learn more about the 2013 “Family Reunification Week Celebration” visit our site at: <http://dcfs.lacounty.gov/reunitingfamilies>.

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