



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

November is recognized as National Adoption month. This is the 12th year that Santa Cruz County has participated in National Adoption Month by celebrating adopted children and their new legally formed families.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa Cruz County Family and Children's Services (FCS) has continued to create forever families through adoption, by conducting virtual adoption finalization hearings when in-person hearings could not be held. Throughout the past year, Judge Timothy Schmal, in coordination with the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department, has finalized the adoptions of 22 children who had been placed in foster care.

There are many issues that are important for children and youth in foster care, including the need to identify secure and safe families who can become potential adoptive families for children and youth of all ages.

During this year's Adoption Month celebration, thanks and recognition is given to the Sew Little Timers – a group of women who provide hand-made quilts to every child and youth adopted through the Santa Cruz County child welfare system. The Sew Little Timers have provided countless quilts to local children and youth over the last several years.

While this is a celebratory month for newly adopted children, youth, and their families, there is still a huge need in Santa Cruz County for more resource parents interested in fostering and adopting children from the foster care system. For more information on becoming a resource parent or adopting children from the foster care system, please call the Foster Care Recruitment Hotline at (831) 2700, or <https://santacruzhumanservices.org/SantaCruzFoster>.