



Family Support Services

OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.

SERVING DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

Adoption news

Judges Gooding and Wallace will miss presiding over adoptions

National Adoption Day November 20 at the Duval County Courthouse will be a special one for adoptive families and judges alike.

Judges Gooding and Waddell Wallace have been assigned to other court divisions, along with Judge Jack Scherer effective January 1. The Family Court division judges replacing them have not yet been announced.

Jim Adams, Family Support Services of North Florida CEO, said that both Judges have set a precedent for safe, effective and timely adoptions, which foster children so desperately need.

“It’s been a tremendous experience and I’m humbled every day when I see the unconditional love these foster and adoptive parents have for these children.”

—Judge Waddell Wallace



Judge Waddell Wallace

“There is no order a Circuit Court judge can enter that is more significant than a Final Judgment of Adoption,” Judge Gooding said. “When I see extended family, friends and neighbors attending final adoption proceedings, I am reminded that adoption is not just about the child and his or her new parents, but that others are affected as well by the blessing of children. So, when we graft a branch onto a family tree, it changes the whole forest, now and forever.”



Judge David Gooding

Judge Wallace, moving to the civil court division, said he’ll miss juvenile court where he’s presided for six years.

“It’s been a tremendous experience and I’m humbled every day when I see the unconditional love these foster and adoptive parents have for

these children,” he said. “I want to stay involved and try to help these foster children.”

Adams said a primary factor in being able to place a record 576 children in permanent homes in the last fiscal year, was streamlining procedures and scheduling hearings to keep the process going.

“Without their dedication to the cause and the needs of children, this wouldn’t have been possible,” he said. “We appreciate and honor these judges’ hard work.”

A private reception honoring the family court judges will be held following the ceremony.

Judge Gooding said it’s been a privilege to work with foster and adoptive families for the past five years. He will stay committed to the cause even though he’s been assigned to the criminal division effective January 1.

Judge Wallace said he’s planning to involve his Rotary Club of West Jacksonville in the “Foster Buddy” program, where positive role models mentor foster children.

“Some of these children, particularly when they are in middle school, really need someone to help them,” he said. “I hope I can help shine the light on this issue.”

FSS Heart Gallery featured at St. Nicholas festival

International cuisine, art markets, entertainment, military events, kid's zone and the 2008 Heart Gallery photographic exhibit of adoptable children will be featured at the inaugural 2008 Family Art Fest and Salute to the Troops November 8 and 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. This is a



free public event to help support Duval County Public Schools' children's art programs and Community Hospice Veterans Partnership.

Artists and photographers, local restaurants, performances and musicians, art and antiques, "green" events and much more, will entertain an expected 8,000 attend the event in Midtown

Center (located off Beach).

A Chinook helicopter and 27-ton AMTRAC will be on display along with the first Library of Congress American Folklife Center "Veteran's History Project" (a first-ever life stories audio taping by American war veterans for historical preservation). Other activities include a 300-seat USO outdoor stage, a Sunday brunch with Mark Twain, film fest and 110-seat Jacksonville Art stage.

Event goers can also view the mobile portrait exhibit of the Heart Gallery featuring over 80 children hoping to find a forever family. Meet the local professional photographers who make the exhibit possible and see how they view things through a different perspective.

For more information, visit www.familyartfestsalutetothetroops.org.

All things behavioral...

Smartly managing children's behavior

"A large part of care giving involves managing the child's or youth's behavior."

You can reinforce behavior in a number of ways including social interaction, praise, appropriate touch, rewards, earned privileges and breaks from tasks or work.

There are several ways to reinforce the child's behavior including:

- Tell child what behavior you liked (if this is appropriate) – and be specific about what the behavior was.
- Provide a consequence for the behavior that matches the value of the behavior. For example, if your child hands you a napkin after you ask for one, you say "thank you;" if child mows lawn, rakes and bags leaves and your response is to give him/her \$5 or an extra 30 minutes on the phone for a week.
- Provide the consequence within three seconds of recognizing the behavior - when possible, deliver the reinforcing consequence within three seconds of recognizing the appropriate behavior, when this is not possible, be sure to specify the behavior you want to strengthen, and try to limit your request to about eight words.
- Use sincere and appropriate facial expressions, tone of voice and body language- for younger children, use happy and enthusiastic facial expressions, tone of voice and body language; for older children, be sincere and show real interest in their activities.

Part 2 of 2—Source: *Essential Tools for Positive Behavior Change*. Shadianna Singh-Vinson, FSS Crisis Specialist

News Briefs

For fun Cyber Safety tips visit www.ikeepSAFE.org!

Computer training scheduled

Parents, if you do not know how to use a computer or you do not have a computer in your home for your school-aged children to use for school work, Family

Support Services has computers and training for you! Call Debbie Campbell at (904)521-5628. The next Cyber Safety class set is for 10 a.m. Saturday, November 1.

FSS offices closed

Family Support Services offices will be closed Tuesday, November 11, in honor of Veteran's Day.

Thankful for a great year

The Northeast Florida and Greater Jacksonville Foster and Adoptive Parent associations will hold a joint meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 18 at the Evangel Temple on Ramona Blvd. They will also celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner and will honor Circuit Court Judges David Gooding and Waddell Wallace, and FSS CEO Jim Adams, for their help this year. The Greater Jacksonville Foster and Adoptive Parent Assn. will not meet again until January.

Don't forget the party

The annual Foster Children's Holiday Party for Nassau and Duval Counties 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, December 15. at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. Come see Santa, eat pizza and pick up gifts. Then, enjoy the day at the Zoo at no cost. Relative caregivers and adoptive families are also invited.

The FSS Nassau office will hold its annual Holiday Party for Nassau County foster children on Sunday, December 14 at the Pirates Woods Clubhouse in Yulee. The time and place is to be determined.



The Heart Gallery of Jacksonville will be on display in the Expo Center at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds.

