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Foster children find ‘forever families’ in National Adoption Month *Arapahoe County celebrates adoption hearings for 13 youth in November*

Aurora, Colo. – Abbey DeBoyes is giving thanks for a new blessing in her life– her eight-year old adopted daughter, Ceci.

Ceci was one of 13 Arapahoe County foster children who were welcomed into a ‘forever family’ during Arapahoe County’s Nov. 14 special court proceedings for National Adoption Month. Magistrate Kathleen Janski of the 18th Judicial District presided over adoption hearings, which were celebrated by family, friends and caseworkers at the Arapahoe County Courthouse.

Arapahoe County’s Department of Human Services found permanent homes for the children, who had been victims of abuse or neglect. While the County makes every effort to reunify children with their parents or relatives, sometimes concerns for their well-being and safety go unresolved, and a small percentage become legally free for adoption.

“We are so grateful to these 12 families for giving a loving, stable home to children who have experienced trauma and loss,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe. “These brave youth have completed such a difficult journey and will now know a lifetime of love and commitment.”

DeBoyes, an Englewood resident, opened her home to Ceci for temporary foster care in May 2012 when Ceci’s biological parents were struggling with substance abuse and homelessness. DeBoyes is a family acquaintance who babysat Ceci over the years. The single, working woman committed to giving Ceci a safe, stable home while the County worked with the parents to resolve safety concerns, and she welcomed Ceci as a daughter when the family could not safely be reunified.

“I always have loved kids and wanted to be a mom, but Ceci is a little girl who was already in my life and someone that I loved,” said DeBoyes. “If I can be the chance that Ceci has to write her own story and break the cycle of her family history, I feel like it’s a privilege. On a daily basis, I live my life for her so that she can have a good life and a good future.”

In total, 77 youth have been adopted through the County’s foster care program in 2013. Currently 24 children in Arapahoe County are still waiting to be adopted. In addition, foster homes are needed for approximately 600 children at any given time. Adoptive and foster parents may be married, single or living with a partner, and may be with or without children.

“I wish more people would adopt. I think there is a sense from people that these kids are broken or damaged, when some of them are really just bruised,” said Abbey. “The benefits far outweigh the

challenges. Ceci is smart, warm, has a great sense of humor, and really wants to be a good little kid and grow into a good adult. I think she brings more for to my life than I can even give to her.”

If you would like to learn more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent through Arapahoe County, please call 303-636-1KID, or attend a monthly information session. The next session will be held at 6 p.m., Dec. 3 at Arapahoe County Administration Building (5334 S. Prince Street, Littleton). For more information and to register, please visit www.collaborativefostercare.com.

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To download photos, please click on the following link:

<ftp://ftp.arapahoegov.com/Pub/Communication%20Services/Photos/Adoption/>

AdoptionDay.jpg: Abbey DeBoyes (right) celebrated the adoption of Ceci, age 8, which was finalized by Magistrate Kathleen Janski (left) during National Adoption Month at the Arapahoe County District Courthouse.

AbbeyandCeci.jpg: Abbey DeBoyes of Englewood adopted Ceci, age 8, during Arapahoe County’s National Adoption Month celebration in November.