



PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact: Sasheika Eugent
Community & Public Relations Specialist
(954) 288-5161**

CELEBRATE NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY: MOTHER OF 18 FINALIZES ADOPTION OF TWIN GIRLS

PLANTATION, FL – After raising nine biological children and nine adopted children, Lula Mae Walker deserves a long break. However, an empty nest was never her idea of a home. In 1991 she made headlines when she adopted nine children at one time. Fast forward seventeen years and Lula Mae's already massive family will grow once more when her adoption of twin teenage girls finalizes on *November 15th, National Adoption Day*.

The twins have been living with Lula Mae for two years now and call her mom. "She is the only mother I have known," said one of the girls. "She does everything a mother should do; she is very involved in our lives." They are excited about making their relationship with their many brothers and sisters official on National Adoption Day. For the past twenty-four years the Kids In Distress foster parent's home has been a haven to at least 300 children who have been removed from their own homes due to abuse, abandonment or neglect.

Though Lula Mae knew that she would adopt the two teens she was even more certain after her granddaughter died, leaving behind three year old twins. Coincidentally, the teenage girls lost their mother at the same age on the same date twelve years ago. "Seeing the bond between the teens and the three year olds further confirmed that the girls are as much a part of the family as any of my biological children," said Lula Mae. "This tragic coincidence pulled us closer together as a family."

"The twin girls are just two of more than forty children that will finally have their second chance at a family," said Theresa Kennedy, ChildNet's Director of Permanency. "Despite the difference in details for each adoption, there is one common theme of acceptance and assurance that is at the core of each adoption."

Lula Mae Walker will join over thirty-five other families who will make their bond with a child permanent through adoption on November 15th at the Broward County Courthouse. Since its inception in 2003, ChildNet has placed 988 children with loving families. There is, however, still a need for forever families for 104 children without an identified adoptive family. For more information about adoption or foster care in Broward County, please call (954) 414-6000 or visit www.BrowardAdopt.org.

ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization selected by the state through a competitive process to serve as the local Community Based Care lead agency. As the lead agency, ChildNet manages the local system of services and supports for Broward's abused, abandoned and neglected children and their caregivers. This system of care was developed by the community and its success depends upon the community's continued support. For more information on ChildNet visit the Web site at www.ChildNet.us or call (954) 414-6000.

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