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Steve SchuhMission*The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services will assist County residents to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency; provide services to strengthen individuals and families; and join our community partners in the protection of vulnerable children and adults*Other LocationsGlen Burnie Office  
Multi-Purpose Building  
7500 Ritchie Highway  
Glen Burnie, Md. 21061  
(410) 269-4500Heritage Center  
2666 Riva Road  
Suite 390  
Annapolis, Md. 21401  
(410) 897-3950Child Advocacy Center  
Winterode Building  
41 Community Place  
Crownsville, Md. 21032  
(410) 421-8570**24 Anne Arundel County Children in Foster Care  
Are Adopted By Forever Families**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 11, 2016)—The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services is celebrating a banner year for finding permanent, safe and loving homes for children in foster care. In the last 12 months, 24 children were adopted and left foster care, which is the most in recent memory and nearly twice the number that were adopted in the county the previous year.

Foster care is a short-term intervention which provides safety, promotes well-being and establishes a permanent family for the child. Children in foster care become candidates for adoption when it is not possible to reunify the child with a biological parent.

Children who were adopted ranged in age from 10 months to 12 years old.

“Creating safe, permanent, long-term connections between a child and a caring adult is a major goal of our department,” said DSS Director Carnitra White. “Many of our adoptive families served as foster parents for the children they adopted. We sincerely thank them for opening their hearts and homes and making these children a permanent part of their family.”

At the same time adoptions are increasing, the department has seen tremendous growth in the number of registered resource homes. Last month, DSS surpassed the milestone of 100 active foster care homes. This represents a 13.6% increase in the number of licensed foster home beds in the county in just one year.

“Having more licensed foster homes here in Anne Arundel County allows children who need to enter foster care to safely remain in the communities where they live, learn and play, and that significantly reduces the trauma they experience,” White said. “We are incredibly grateful for all our foster families for making their homes available to a child in crisis.”

Since 2005, DSS has reduced by almost half the number of children in foster care, from 266 to 135 children in care today. Yet additional foster homes are needed, especially for sibling groups and teens. For information about becoming a foster parent and other ways to support youths in foster care in Anne Arundel County, call 410-897-3909 or visit

<http://www.annearundelfostercare.com/>.

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