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## **Foster children yearn for a forever home during National Adoption Month**

**Aurora, Colo.** – Every year thousands of children in foster care dream of being part of a family. As part of National Adoption Month, adults are encouraged to ask themselves, “Could I make a difference in the life of a child? Could I show a child the love, compassion and encouragement she needs to succeed in life?”

In celebration of National Adoption Month, Arapahoe County will hold 10 adoption court hearings where children and their adoptive parents will officially become a family.

“Adopting a child into a caring, permanent home helps break the cycle of abuse and neglect,” said Erika Sorensen, Adoption Supervisor. “As role models, parents help these children increase their chances of future success.”

The County’s children waiting to be adopted have suffered a loss or have been removed from harmful environments but they want a mom and dad just like every kid.

Meet siblings, Serenity (16) and Mercedes (13). These girls are hoping to find an adoptive home where they can stay together. Both are healthy and doing well. Serenity is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and excels in math. She enjoys singing in the school choir and likes to write. Serenity was forced to grow up fast and take on a parenting role very early in life. She’s learning how to be a kid again and create appropriate boundaries.

Mercedes is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and enjoys reading. She is a quiet child and can be very helpful around the house. She also needs help with appropriate boundaries. She enjoys drawing, listening to music and playing games.

“These girls have had to deal with physical and emotional abuse from those who were supposed to love them,” said Erin Minder, Arapahoe County caseworker. “They thrive on one-on-one attention and would do best in a family with few other children. They’re hoping for parents who enjoy being active. Getting out and about as a family means more to them than sitting and watching TV.”

Could you be Serenity’s and Mercedes’ ‘forever’ family? If you would like to foster or adopt a child, call 303-636-1KID to attend our free orientation night for more information.

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To download photos click on the following link: [ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/)

### **Photo captions:**

Serenity and Mercedes, Arapahoe County foster children, are hoping to find adoptive parents. Will you help?