

**Family** 

## Eight Santa Barbara County families give foster children 'Forever' homes

November is National Adoption Month

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KCOY Adoption Day (3 min 15 sec)

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, Calif. - The Myers family didn't expect to ever be part of a celebration like the one put on by Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services on Wednesday.

"We became emergency foster parents about 11 months ago and took him in when he was 11 months old actually. [Jameson] has been with us going through the process. We did not know we were gonna become adoptive parents but today is the day," said new adoptive mom Kimberly Myers.

On Wednesday the Myers joined seven other families in a massive adoption event in Santa Maria. Two year old Jameson will now be joining the Myers other two sons who couldn't be more excited for their new brother.

"I just kept waiting and waiting until I knew could get him," said new brother Kaden.

For the Myers family, they say the adoption process was easy as Jameson is Kimberly Myers' nephew, but for other families it can be a different experience - sometimes taking up to two years for the adoptions to go through.

"It's just a matter of holding on and going through the process and being able to recognize all the steps involved - the assessments, the court process and making sure they wait until the child is free for them to take home," explained Gustavo Prado, Department Visit Specialist for the county.

Currently. the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services says they could use more foster families to help fill the need of the all children looking for homes. Kids age 12 and up typically spend the longest time waiting for a family.

"Some kids have been waiting two, two and half maybe three years to have a forever home - meaning a family that will keep them forever - a family that will be there for them all the Christmases and all the holidays," Prado said.

For toddler Jameson however, that wait is over. His new family looks forward to making new memories with the child they consider a surprise blessing.

"Having a two year old is not something we had planned on happening at all and sometimes you get blessings that you don't know you need but that's exactly what he's been to our family," Myers said.

For more information on becoming a foster family. click here.

http://www.keyt.com/lifestyle/family/eight-santa-barbara-county-families-give-foster-children-foreverhomes/656816515