



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT'S KIDS' KORNER CELEBRATED CARING FOR 50,000 KIDS

An important milestone was achieved on Friday, August 18 at 1:30 p.m. when Kids' Korner, a children's waiting room located in the Lake County Courthouse, officially reached the 50,000th child cared for since opening their doors in 1994. The celebration to commemorate this significant event was held on Wednesday, August 23 at 12:30 p.m. in the Kids' Korner room.

Chief Judge Jorge Ortiz welcomed a joyful gathering of judges, including retired Circuit Judge Jane Waller, employees, Kids' Korner volunteers and blanketers, and members of the local legal community. He spoke of the importance of Kids' Korner. "A courthouse can be a stressful, intimidating and often scary place for a child," Chief Ortiz said, "What they need is what every child needs--a place where they feel safe and comforted. In the Lake County Courthouse, that place is Kids' Korner." Every child that came to Kids' Korner during this special celebration received a stuffed animal, crayons, the Court's "Learning About Judges" coloring book, in addition to a book of their choice to take home to read.

Kids Korner was founded through the vision and direction of former Circuit Judge Jane Waller, to address the needs of children in the courthouse. It has been a successful model for other state and county courthouses across the country. The children's waiting room is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The children must be between the ages of 2 and 12 years old and no more than nine children may be in the room at any given time. It is a free service provided to parents and guardians who have court business. Staff consists of two full-time and one part-time employees, and several trained, dedicated volunteers whose service is indispensable. The Kids' Korner program is funded by courthouse user fees.

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