



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Mayor Jacobs Honors Knox County Woman Named National 2020 Adoptive Parent of the Year**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*—A single Knox County woman who adopted five young daughters is making plans for a free family vacation to Disney World.

The trip to Florida is one of the prizes presented to Elizabeth (Beth) Schneider for being named the 2020 Adoptive Parent of the Year by the national non-profit organization [Transfiguring Adoption](#).

“I have five daughters between age two to nine and I'm a single mom,” said Schneider. “Taking five girls to Disney is not really a [normal] possibility. This is a great honor and I'm really excited about this gift I can give to my kids.”

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs joined leaders from the Knox North Lions Club and the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) to present the award to Schneider Tuesday afternoon in front of the City/County Building.

“In Tennessee last year, there were over 1,186 adoptions with 167 of them in Knox County,” said Mayor Jacobs. “To be a foster or adoptive parent is to answer the call, to show a child or children there are many ways to build a unique family. These families have a positive ripple effect on our community.”

Schneider credited the support system of friends, church groups, and other organizations for helping with “the hardest thing I've ever done.”

“There are always a million reasons not to adopt, but I have five incredible reasons it's worth it,” Schneider added, “It is never lost on me the weight of the gift God has given me. These [girls] were once strangers and now they're my daughters. They are the greatest privilege I'll ever have.”

“Beth is the kind of foster parent that you hope and pray for,” said Jennifer Nichols, Tennessee DCS Commissioner. “I don't think everyone is called to foster and I don't think everyone is called to adopt [children]. But all of us should be called to do something. If you can't foster or adopt, you can be a support person for somebody who does.”

Schneider has chronicled her family's journey by creating The Schneider Ladies [website](#).

Watch our segment on the event [here](#).

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