



Hello Hamilton County

July 2009

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

***“All things are possible until they are proved impossible —
and even the impossible may only be so as of now.”***

~Pearl S. Buck

Higher Education Mentoring Initiative (HEMI) Launched to Support Hamilton County Foster Youth In Pursuing Higher Education

Foster youth — children who have been abused or neglected and are now being cared for by Hamilton County — face daunting challenges when it comes to achieving higher education and leading successful adult lives. Although many of them would like to go to college, it is not a reality for most.



This innovative program seeks to reduce delinquency and help prepare foster children for post-secondary education. HEMI is the first program of its kind in Ohio.

Commissioner Greg Hartmann and Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS) Director Moira Weir

Despite national studies indicating that 70% of foster youth want to go to college, in Hamilton County less than one-third of eligible foster children graduate from high school. Fewer than one in five take the ACT or complete a financial aid packet. In 2008, only a few of the 150 Hamilton County foster youth who were enrolled in high school pursued higher education.

Hamilton County and the University of Cincinnati (UC) are working together to change that. In May, they launched the Higher Education Mentoring Initiative (HEMI).

initiated the partnership with UC to develop HEMI.

The program's goals are to:

- Reduce the number of foster youth who drop out of high school;
- Increase the number who apply to and pursue higher education;
- Set foster youth on a path to successful careers and sustainable income.

“Without this kind of mentoring program, this

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population of children is at a substantially higher risk for a number of other problems," said JFS Director Weir. "It is very tough for an 18-year-old to make wise choices without a family for guidance and financial support to assist them."

HEMI will recruit, train and support mentors to establish long-term, positive relationships with about 50 Hamilton County foster youth each year. The mentors will assist, encourage and sup-

port academic achievement in high school, as well as post-secondary education. The mentoring relationship will be formal, with results tracked and measured.

The HEMI pilot program will target foster youth who are entering their senior year of high school and are expected to graduate in 2010. The program will pair approximately 25 foster youth with a mentor from the community at the start of their senior year. After the initial pilot year, the goal of the program is

to work with foster children earlier in their high school experience.

"This is a great opportunity for people who aren't sure if they are ready to become a foster parent, but still want to help foster children in our community," said Commissioner Hartmann. "This program is a direct investment in the future success of our greater community."

For information about becoming a mentor, please contact Rayma Waters at 513-556-0104 or rayma.waters@uc.edu.

HEMI How You Can Help

Greater Cincinnati area businesses, foundations, non-profits, civic organizations and individuals can be of great assistance in ensuring HEMI's success and in changing their community for the better. Quite simply, this project will not be successful without heavy community involvement.

There are several ways to help:

Become a mentor: The most direct way to help HEMI is to join the initiative as a mentor. You'll team up with a high-school aged foster youth who needs your assistance. We'll provide the training you need. You'll be asked to commit at least two hours a week, attend a monthly meeting, and keep a contact log. You'll have direct contact with foster youth and a path to changing a child's life.

Contact Rayma Waters, UC Program Coordinator, at 513-556-0104 or rayma.waters@uc.edu.

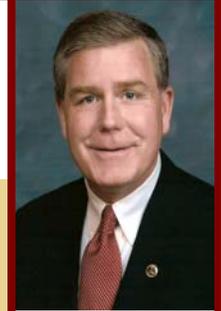
Host a Lunch and Learn: Businesses and other organizations can volunteer to hold a Lunch and Learn, where employees or members can learn about HEMI's mentoring opportunities. HEMI officials will visit your organization, give a short presentation and answer questions from your group.
Contact Brian Gregg at 513-946-1728 or greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org.

Make a donation: Students need books, computers and other classroom materials to succeed. Fees for college applications and entrance tests are also necessary. And living expenses are a necessity for those with no family to turn to for financial support. Donations will be used to promote academic success.
Contact Brian Gregg at 513-946-1728 or greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org.



Patrick's Perspective

Thank You to the Many People Who are Integral to Foster Youth's Success



Patrick Thompson,
Hamilton County
Administrator

On June 24, I had the pleasure of attending the Celebration of Dreams event that recognizes the achievements of foster youth who graduate from high school or earn GEDs. Not only was it a celebration of the graduates' great achievements, it was also a celebration of all of the good people who help our foster youth succeed.

For every graduate who attended, there were others who had played a part in helping them achieve and who wanted to join in the celebration. In attendance were foster parents, mentors, Guardian Ad Litem, Juvenile Court magistrates, caseworkers, and many others who make a difference.

It was striking to see how many people have worked so hard to support these deserving youth. And it was humbling to hear the stories of how people have gone the extra mile to help.

For example, Gaja Karyala is a JFS employee who volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader from 2002—2006. She formed a troop for girls who were in the foster care system. Karyala attended the Celebration of Dreams to honor two of her former girl scouts who graduated. How special is that!

One graduate mentioned that his Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) was there and had given him a graduation gift. GAL's are volunteers who advocate for the best interest of children involved in Hamilton County court proceedings and play an important role in helping the courts make the best decisions possible for the youth.

Several Juvenile Court magistrates attended, including Katherine Boller-Koch. Magistrates make legal decisions about issues such as permanent custody for foster youth. They get to know the youth involved, since they encourage the youth to be active participants in the hearing process. However, judicial ethics prevent magistrates from having contact with the youth outside of the courtroom. Boller-Koch explained, "The Celebration of Dreams is the one opportunity outside of the courtroom where magistrates can speak with the youth, give them a hug, and say good job."

Many foster parents attended the ceremony as well to celebrate with their foster children. Foster parents play such a critical role by opening their homes and hearts to children who need a safe place to live with caring adults to guide them.

The Celebration of Dreams Committee and members of the Foster Child Enrichment Council work tirelessly each year to ensure

that foster youth enjoy this celebration and have the essentials they need to move forward successfully.

Their work is important and makes a big difference as the graduates reach this milestone in their lives.

Hamilton County Coroner Dr. O'dell Owens' moving speech resonated with the graduates. His message about taking care of others will influence all of us who had the privilege of hearing him speak.

Also in attendance were leaders whose organizations are an integral part of foster youth's success, such as Juvenile Court's Honorable Judge Lipps, Commissioner Greg Hartmann, JFS Director Moira Weir, and Lighthouse Youth Services Director Bob Mecum. Their leadership makes all of these services possible.



JFS employee and former Girl Scout Leader Gaja Karyala (pictured right) celebrates the graduation of two of her former troop members, Micha (left) and Dausheeka (center).

It's inspiring to see so many good people working to make a difference for our foster youth. Many of these adults said seeing the foster youth graduate makes all of their effort worthwhile. Karyala summed it up best by saying, "Seeing two of my girl scouts and the rest of the kids graduate restored my faith in what we do and why we do it."

Congratulations and thank you to all who work so hard to help our foster youth achieve.



Celebration of Dreams Event Honors Foster Youth Who Graduate High School

Hamilton County held the tenth annual Celebration of Dreams event on June 24, honoring youth in Hamilton County's foster care system who have graduated from high school or earned a GED. The event is sponsored by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) and the Foster Child Enrichment Council.

"This event is a fantastic opportunity to say congratulations to the graduates and thank you to our foster parents, caseworkers and others who have provided the necessary support to make this day a reality," said JFS Director Moira Weir.

Lincoln Ware, local radio and television talk show personality served as Master of Ceremonies for the celebration, in which over 50 foster youth were honored.

County Commissioner Greg Hartmann spoke to the graduates on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. "I was honored to attend the Celebration of Dreams event. It is an evening to celebrate achievement and hope," said Commissioner Hartmann. These kids have stood in the face of adversity that we would never wish on any child and, despite that, they committed themselves to completing high school. I wish them all a future full of happiness and success."

Dr. O'dell Owens, Hamilton

County Coroner, served as keynote speaker. He spoke about the importance of healing relationships daily and encouraged the foster youth to use their life experiences to help others.

"You've been abused, you've been beaten. And yet you rise," said Dr. Owens. "There is nothing life can throw at you that you haven't already experienced. You're the future."

Three graduates also addressed the crowd. "Life is what you make of it," said Beatrice Bell, who will pursue a nursing degree at Cincinnati State. "The future belongs to those who believe in themselves."

"I've had great caseworkers who have helped me along the way," said graduate Willie Jones. "I thank them so much for being such a great support." Jones will attend Brevard College in North Carolina, where he will run track. His goal is to help send his siblings to college.



JFS' Stacy Sutton and three graduates enjoyed the Celebration of Dreams event together.

"Believe in yourself," was Lacey Weatherall's message. She said, "I have had help from JFS, Lighthouse Youth Services, and all of my foster parents. Now I believe in myself." Weatherall has earned a full scholarship to Bowling Green, where she will major in Drama.

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JFS Director Moira Weir and Bob Mecum, Executive Director of Lighthouse Youth Services personally congratulated each graduate, presenting them with a certificate.

The Foster Child Enrichment Council presented each graduate with gifts to help them as they begin the next phase of their lives. Graduates were thrilled to receive the household items and gift cards.

In the seven years that the event has been held, over 450 foster youth have been recognized and assisted.

To learn more about the Celebration of Dreams event or about how you can help foster children, please visit www.helpfosterchildren.org.



Many graduates were moved by Hamilton County Coroner Dr. O'dell Owens' speech and asked for photos with him afterwards.



Graduates enjoyed receiving gifts provided by the Foster Child Enrichment Council.



The Honorable Judge Lipps and Juvenile Court Magistrate Katherine Boller-Koch visit with foster parent Ruth Hernandez and graduate Jessica Smith during the Celebration of Dreams event.

Want to Help? Your support is needed!
Donate Now for the 2010 Celebration of Dreams Event.
You donations of money, new household items, gift cards, or services can help these graduates as they begin life after high school and foster care!
To learn how you can help, please visit www.helpfosterchildren.org



Hamilton County Honors Civil Rights Pioneers



The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners honored local Civil Rights Pioneers during Major League Baseball's Civil Rights Game on June 20. Pictured from left to right: Commissioner Todd Portune, Dr. Milton Hinton, Ms. Shirley Colbert, Mr. Robert Harris, Dr. Allene Reed, Mr. William Mallory, Sr., and Commissioner David Pepper.

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) honored five civil rights pioneers during the Cincinnati Reds Civil Rights game on Saturday, June 20. The honorees and their guests enjoyed the game from the Hamilton County suite. They received proclamations from the County, and during the first inning break they were introduced and pictured on the big screen for the entire ball park to see.

"Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati were honored to host the Civil Rights Game," said Commissioner David Pepper. "We had a unique opportunity to recognize our local heroes. This is a wonderful group to honor."

Honorees were selected with input from a panel of volunteers who reviewed all ninety-one nominations. The five people were selected

because their lifetime achievements and contributions to the advancement of civil rights in our community stand out.

"Cincinnati and Hamilton County have been blessed by having the courageous leadership of these pioneers in civil rights," said Commissioner Todd Portune. "We are eternally grateful for their lifetime achievement."

"This is a great way to recognize fine citizens who have dedicated themselves to many years and countless hours of service on the behalf of civil rights in our community. I thank them for their contributions," said Commissioner Greg Hartmann.

To learn more about the honorees, please read page 7.



Hamilton County's Civil Rights Pioneers



Ms. Shirley Colbert

Ms. Colbert led with the work of the Model Cities Programs close to 40 years ago in the West End, as well as the Children and Family First programs. She has also worked with

HUD and health care administrations for tenant councils to be formed and perpetuated. That work continues today.

Mr. Robert Lee Harris

Mr. Harris is described as a teacher and an advocate for people with disabilities. For 13 years, he served as the Education/ Training

Coordinator for the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission providing training in several areas including valuing and managing diversity.



The Honorable William Mallory Senior

In 1966, William Mallory was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, which was the beginning of a 28 year career in the Ohio legislature. Eight years later, he was elected Majority Floor Leader and was the first African-American to hold that position.



Dr. Milton Hinton

Dr. Hinton served as President of the Cincinnati branch of the NAACP from 1994—2000, and he established the Dr. Milton Hinton Scholarship for minority students at the University of Cincinnati in 1992.

Dr. Allene Reed

Dr. Reed pioneered the way for African Americans in her battle to become the first African American member for the Board of Realtors in 1963, since its inception in 1888.





Hamilton County MR/DD Named Outstanding Employer by National Guard & Reserves



MR/DD Adult Services Director Peggy Kurz accepts the award from military personnel.



Naval Reservist Adam Hardin

The Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) was recognized for exemplary support of employees on military duty with the National Guard and Reserves.

Former Behavior Support Specialist Adam Hardin nominated the agency. Adam spent 14 months in Kuwait in 2006 and 2007 with his Navy Reserve Unit while employed by Hamilton County MR/DD.

The Ohio Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) annually

recognizes civilian employers statewide for exemplary cooperation and understanding with employees called to military duty in the National Guard and Reserves.

Hamilton County MR/DD received the "Above and Beyond" award for employers who go beyond legal requirements.

"I was overwhelmed by the support that came from so many departments and co-workers when I was deployed," Hardin said.

Hardin received regular emails,

letters and packages while in Kuwait, especially from students and staff at two schools operated by the agency: Margaret B. Rost on Bridgetown Road and Bobbie B. Fairfax in Madisonville. Adult individuals and staff at the adult center where Hardin worked, Robert Franks on Bridgetown Road, were also highly supportive.

"While I was honored to represent us in Columbus to receive this award, the congratulations for this highly regarded recognition goes to everyone who supported Adam in any large or small way while he was in Kuwait," said Kurz.

Hamilton County Board of MR/DD provides a full range of educational, vocational, residential, service facilitation and other support for more than 7,900 adults and children with disabilities in Hamilton County.

Services are partially provided due to the widespread and generous support of Hamilton County taxpayers through a five-year property tax levy that will be up for vote again in November 2009.

For more information about the Hamilton County Board of MR/DD, please visit this link: <http://www.hamiltonmrdd.org/>



Hamilton County Leads Collaborative Effort To Request Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funding

Hamilton County has submitted a proposal to receive up to \$4.84 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding. The funding is provided to help communities reduce energy usage and fossil fuel emissions, thereby saving costs and helping the environment.

Any funding received will benefit not just Hamilton County government, but also other entities within the Hamilton County community. For example, the funding could provide the following:

- Direct assistance for Hamilton County government and other local governments for conducting energy conservation and efficiency projects within their buildings and facilities.
- Incentives for businesses and homeowners to implement energy improvements within their facilities and homes.
- An alternative energy component as part of the Banks project.
- A funding pool to provide incentive for

purchasing hybrid or alternatively fueled vehicles for Hamilton County or other jurisdictions within Hamilton County.

Hamilton County developed the grant request in collaboration with:

- City of Cincinnati
- Duke Energy
- Cincinnati Energy Alliance
- Community Action Agency
- Workforce Investment Board.

This group gathered input from all of the Hamilton County Climate Initiative participants, as well.

“This is a broad, comprehensive approach. By doing this, we can lower our carbon footprint, create jobs, and save dollars,” said Commissioner David Pepper. “This is exciting.”

Hamilton County submitted the grant request in late June, and funds should become available by October.



EcoDriving Tip: Avoid Idling!

Turn your engine off if your car will be stopped for longer than one minute.

Even when your car isn't moving, you're burning fuel if the engine is on. And technically, you're getting 0 miles per gallon when your car idles! So avoid idling and shut off your engine for stops of longer than one minute, when it's safe to do so. For example, you can shut off your engine when you're in a driveway waiting for the kids, or when you're in a parking lot to make a quick drop off or pick up.

Hamilton County employees and citizens are encouraged to use EcoDriving strategies to save fuel costs and to help our environment by reducing Carbon Dioxide emissions.

For more helpful EcoDriving tips, visit www.ecodrivingusa.com.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Awards \$1 Million To Hamilton County School Districts For Clean Diesel Technology School Buses

Tens of thousands of school children in Southwest Ohio will enjoy a cleaner, healthier commute to and from school, thanks to a grant obtained by Hamilton County that enabled the purchase of 60 retrofitted buses.

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) received funding for the buses through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services submitted the grant requesting funds for the Clean Diesel Campaign on behalf of the BOCC.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson was in Cincinnati at Monfort Heights Elementary on Wednesday, June 3 to award the BOCC \$1 million dollars to help purchase 60 clean diesel technology school buses for seven Hamilton County School Districts.

The total project amount for purchasing the 60

new school buses is \$4,320,000. The ARRA Grant provided 25% of the funding: \$1,080,000. The school districts contributed the other 75%: \$3,240,000. By purchasing 60 clean diesel technology school buses, 15,000 pounds of air pollutant emissions will be reduced annually.

HCDOES began the Southwest Ohio Clean Diesel Campaign in 2004 to work with school districts to secure funding to retrofit district-owned school buses that are 1993 and older. Prior to the ARRA grant, HCDOES' Clean Diesel Campaign had received \$500,000 in grant funding and retrofitted 460 district-owned school buses with clean diesel technology. This has resulted in an estimated 28,000 pounds of air pollutants removed annually, which is great for our air quality.

For more information about the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services' Clean Diesel Campaign, visit www.hcdoes.org and click on Clean Diesel Campaign.

The Hamilton County school districts that will receive grant funding to purchase clean diesel technology school buses are:

Forest Hills School District	6 buses
Loveland City School District	4 buses
Mt. Healthy City School District	20 buses
Northwest Local School District	6 buses
Oak Hills Local School District	4 buses
Princeton City School District	15 buses
Three Rivers Local School District	5 buses



Find Great Items and Bargains On the Hamilton County Surplus Auction!



You can purchase this 2001 Chevy Tahoe using the Hamilton County Surplus Auction. Bids are accepted until July 8, 2009 at 7 p.m. EST.



Vehicles are just one of the great things available on the surplus auction. Other items that may be available include computer equipment, office furniture, and electronics. You never know what kinds of

bargains you'll find on the surplus auction. Items available change frequently, so visit the site often to increase your chances of finding something great!

See what kinds of items and bargains you can find using the county's online public auction!

www.hamiltoncountyohioauction.com



Hamilton County Programs Earn National Recognition With 2009 NACo Achievement Awards

Hamilton County learned in June that it has earned six 2009 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards.

The NACo Achievement Awards recognize high caliber county programs that promote quality, efficient, and responsive management and administration. The award winning programs serve as models for other

counties throughout the US.

"Especially at a time when our County workforce is being asked to do more with less, these awards are a testament to a talented, creative and innovative work force," said Commission President David Pepper. "Congratulations to all recipients."

Departments whose programs were award winning include:

- Hamilton County Job and Family Services: 4 Awards
- Department of Environmental Services: 1 award
- Hamilton County Human Resources: 1 award.

To learn about the innovative, award-winning programs, please read the summaries on pp. 12-14.



Department of Environmental Services: Recycling at Work ~

Technical Assistance Program for Businesses and Property Managers

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District's (District) *Recycling at Work* program assists local businesses and property managers initiate recycling in their offices.

The program uses a three-pronged approach:

- Offering technical assistance,
- Providing indoor collection supplies,
- Creating educational materials for offices interested in recycling but unsure how to begin.

At the first meeting with an office, District staff helps design a custom collection process and explain the options of private sector paper recyclers in the area. The District provides all the supplies neces-



sary for internal collection including desk-side recycling boxes and larger containers for bottles and cans. Finally, to increase employee involvement, staff creates flyers, posters, and stickers explaining how to recycle and encouraging employees to participate.

The program has blossomed from 13 properties helped in 2006 to 67 properties during 2008. To date, more than 33,000 employees gained access to recycling in their workplace due to the program.

Catherine Walsh, Solid Waste Program Specialist, and Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Outreach Coordinator, administer the Recycling at Work program.

Human Resources: Innovation Training Program

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners is committed to strengthening the county's innovation environment. It's important for employees to think of ideas to add value for the county, share the ideas, and help implement them.

To support employees in strengthening the innovation environment, the Human Resources Development Division created the "Hamilton County Innovates" training program. As of January 2009, over 1,700 employees have attended the 6.5 hour training class, which helps employees understand:

- What is innovation
- Why innovation is important for Hamilton County
- What the county is doing to encourage innovation
- What individual employees can do to encourage innovation
- How to use tools and techniques to think of and

implement ideas that can add value.

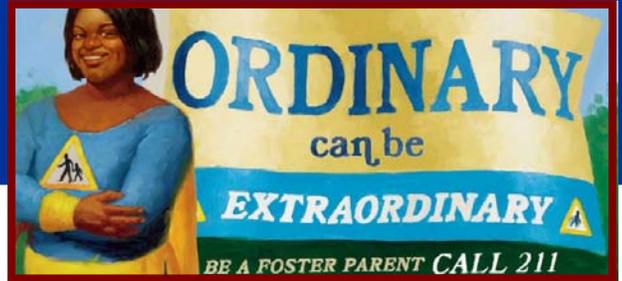
This training session has produced positive results for Hamilton County! The employees who attended recognize that their ideas are important for Hamilton County, and they now contribute more ideas. Since the training program began in 2007, participation in the county's *Fresh Ideas* innovation incentive program has increased by over 300%, and there has been a 200% increase in dollars saved through *Fresh Ideas* submissions.

Hamilton County HRD's Laura Maus and Lisa Doerger developed the program. Along with Maus and Doerger, HR's Chris Biersack and Julian Wagner instruct the class. HRD's Patti Singler coordinated enrollments and materials.





Job and Family Services: Everyday Heroes



Recognizing the urgent need to increase foster home capacity in the county, Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services and the Hamilton County Commissioners spearheaded a campaign with several community providers to recruit new local foster homes.

The agency also forged a public-private partnership with local business leaders during the campaign. The campaign theme, "Everyday Heroes," shows foster parents as heroes just for providing stable homes to children in need.

The message was incorporated in a television commercial, outdoor advertising and a grassroots recruitment effort. The commercial aired in 24 Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana counties, enabling the campaign to recruit new foster homes throughout

the Tri-state region.

The goal of the campaign was to recruit 100 new foster homes and to increase the number of youths placed inside of Hamilton County to 84 percent (from 70 percent); currently, the percentage of youths placed inside the County is 77 percent.

Since the campaign's launch in January 2008, the campaign has brought in 498 referrals and raised more than \$600,000 to help spread the word about the need for foster homes. The awareness campaign helped the agency and its partner foster care organizations license 79 new homes in 2008, with another 77 in the pipeline at year's end.

Job and Family Services: Library Initiative

A new service is making the process of dropping off verification documents a lot easier for clients of Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services.

HCJFS clients can now drop off any documentation needed to receive agency services at any of the 41 libraries operated by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Since the initiative's start date of June 2, 2008, 1,007 clients have taken advantage of this convenient service.

Library branches are located throughout the county, providing clients with easier access and more convenient hours of service, including evenings and weekends. After receiving the documents from the client, library employees fax the documents to the main offices of JFS, relieving the



client of mailing them or delivering them in person to a downtown office.

For some clients, dropping off verification documents to their JFS worker is the only reason they need to come downtown; the library initiative saves them time and money. The initiative also relieves stress on the crowded lobbies at the agency buildings; the clients who must visit the offices may not have to wait in line as long either.



Job and Family Services: REAL Dads

In 2006, the Child Support section of Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services worked with Lighthouse Youth Services to secure a grant for \$2.5 million (\$500,000 for 5 years) for its Skills for Young Fathers program.

Many young fathers in the county do not provide financial or emotional support to their children due to a lack of employment experience and deficits in life management skills, such as parenting and responsible decision-making. The young fathers often do not have the natural supports and skills needed to overcome obstacles and barriers that prohibit them from being an effective and nurturing parent.

The agency believes that every father wants to be a Responsible, Effective, Accountable and Loving

(REAL) Dad. With the help of counseling, job coaching and child support information, which is all part of the REAL Dads program, these fathers can support their children and increase their parenting and life management skills, as well as their family's economic stability.

For the March 2007 kick-off, a select number of absent parent fathers who range in age from 17 -24 years old and who had at least \$2,000 in delinquent payments were chosen to participate in the program; the program is now offered to fathers 17 years old and older. Forty-five fathers have successfully completed the program.



Job and Family Services: Sheriff Commissary Account Seizures

The Child Support Enforcement Agency within Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services is always looking for new and innovative ways to gather support for the children of the county. One such way was the start of the Sheriff Commissary Account Seizures program.

The program was started to increase collections on current child support and delinquent accounts, especially on cases where orders are hard to enforce due to the obligor being in and out of jail. The agency partnered with the Sheriff's Department in order to seize assets from jail inmates' commissary accounts to pay towards child support.

The Child Support Enforcement staff matches inmates to child support cases. If a case is found

to be in default, a lien is filed with the Recorder's Office and an "Administrative Order Directing Payment" is forwarded to a hearing officer who reviews it and executes the order, if appropriate. The Sheriff's Office employee sends a check to a Child Support cashier who posts the payments to the cases.

The cases are reviewed and amounts collected on a quarterly basis. As of November 2008, a total of \$22,436.70 had been collected on 153 cases with 65 delinquent account hits.





Caring Families are Needed!



Lamont

Born April 26, 1999

Lamont learns fast – especially if it involves math! It's his favorite subject at school. Another love of this energetic and eager young man is football. He plays on his school's team, and when he's not playing he just can't get enough of the Bengals, Rams and Patriots.

Although physically active, Lamont also has quiet indoor interests. He enjoys playing checkers and Old Maid, and he also likes to read. Someday he would like to visit Disney World.

**To learn more about Lamont
and others available for adoption,
Please call 513-632-6366 or visit www.hcadopt.org.**



Please post "Hello Hamilton County," so everyone can see what's going on!

Hello Hamilton County is published monthly. It is designed to inform citizens and employees about news and events related to Hamilton County government and our community in general. You can find current and archived editions on the County's website. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus.

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