



Hello Hamilton County

December 4, 2007

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the week: *"What I've learned is that if people understand what needs to be done, almost anything can be accomplished."*

~Marilyn Marks

Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services Receives Award for Diesel-Emission Reduction Efforts

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5's Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative Leadership Group recognized Hamilton County's Department of Environmental Services (DOES) for the actions they have taken to reduce diesel emissions.

Specifically, they recognized DOES' work with the Southwest Clean Diesel Campaign, which DOES started in 2003.

Ken Edgell, DOES' Environmental Administrative Coordinator, created the Southwest Ohio Clean Diesel Campaign.

The goals of the Campaign are:

- To reduce the pollution from diesel-powered engines including school buses, on-road vehicles and off-road vehicles.
- To retrofit all 1994-2004 diesel-powered school buses in Southwest Ohio (approximately 800) to provide a cleaner, healthier ride for children.
- To educate transportation managers of the numerous emissions reduction devices available for diesel-powered engines.

To achieve these goals, grant opportunities are identified and applications are submitted. Once grant funding is secured, Mr. Edgell coordinates the ordering and installation of the Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs).

To date, through grants obtained from the U.S. EPA's Voluntary Diesel Retrofit Program (\$120,000); the Duke Energy Foundation (\$100,000); and, the Ohio•Kentucky•Indiana Regional Council of Governments (\$24,000), a total of 265 school buses have been retrofitted with DOCs. As a result, approximately 15,900 pounds of pollutants have been removed from these 265 buses annually.

EPA Region 5's Administrator Mary A. Gade, says Hamilton County has "forged unique and effective partnerships for reducing diesel emissions." Congratulations to The Department of Environmental Services on their efforts!



On behalf of Ken Edgell, Sarah Dowers (pictured second from right) accepts Hamilton County's Award for the Southwest Ohio Clean Diesel Campaign.



HCJFS Child Support Reaches Out to Prisoners Who Have Child Support Cases



HCJFS Child Support staff approach the Correctional Reception Center in Orient, Ohio, as part of their outreach efforts.



Deb Cunningham, Chris Meece, Ricarla Boyden, and Ken Jones provide outreach to inmates who have Child Support cases and will soon be released from incarceration.

Hamilton County Job and Family Services' (HCJFS') Child Support department is reaching out to prison inmates who owe child support. Many inmates, upon release, avoid contact with the Child Support Department, because the amount of child support they owe can be daunting. So the goal is to help the inmates put a face with the agency and learn that people within the agency are willing to work with them on the Child Support issue.

Deb Cunningham, Child Support Enforcement Section Chief, says that more than half of the inmates in the state prison system have child support cases. Her department's goal is to create an extensive outreach program with those nearing release from prison or transitioning into the community while living in halfway houses. "I believe education — helping folks understand what we can do and what we

cannot do — is a big part of the image battle," says Cunningham.

A big part of the message is that when released, the inmates should call the Child Support office to work with them on their Child Support cases. Katheryn Wills handles the cases of Child Support clients in prisons and jails, and she is active with this outreach. She and her supervisor, Chris Meece, say, "We want them to understand that their failure to communicate with us can be a big barrier. If they communicate with us, we may not have to suspend their driver's license, which could hinder their ability to get a job. Without a job, many return to their old ways."

Cunningham and Meece, along with Ricarla Boyden and Ken Jones, went to a Resource Fair at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient in mid-

November. Three weeks earlier, they had shared information with and answered questions for about 90 inmates at the Warren County Correctional Institution. These are just a couple of many outreach activities planned at state prisons and reentry programs offered by agencies such as Talbert House.

Cunningham has served on a statewide panel seeking ways to better serve this population. "They need to know we're open to working with them . . ." she says. Cunningham plans to involve Workforce Development staff in this process, and she speaks about plans to help ex-felons tap into community resources. Jones believes the efforts could help break destructive cycles. "I think [this outreach] is going to build to be a big thing; a great thing," Boyden said.



Hamilton County Encourages Students and Teachers to Recycle



From left to right: Sue Magness, Hamilton County Solid Waste Management, Denny Dryer (Corryville Catholic Student/Get a Bin Pledge Winner), Angie Okuda (Pleasant Ridge Elem. Recycling Coordinator), Amy Morsch (McNicholas HS Recycling Coordinator), Suzanne Dewell-Glassmeyer (J.F. Dulles Elem. Recycling Coordinator), Charles Chuey (Montgomery Elem. Student/Get a Bin Pledge Winner).

The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services' (DOES) Solid Waste District is reaching out to encourage recycling at schools — and to encourage students to recycle at home. Two students and three teachers (pictured above) who are recycling won tickets to watch a Cincinnati Bengals game from Hamilton County's suite at Paul Brown Stadium.

Sue Magness, an Education Specialist with DOES, reports that of the approximately 350 schools in Hamilton County, about 170 have contacted DOES and are recycling at some level. Thirty five of these schools have exceptional programs where they have a designated recycling coordinator, administrative support, have registered a year long education plan, integrated recycling into the curriculum, proactively educate the campus community via PA announcements, posters, newsletter articles and more. The teachers invited to the game were drawn from this group.

The students who won tickets to the game had participated in the "Get a Bin Pledge Program." In that program, brochures are distributed to students during recycling classroom presentations and special events sponsored by the Solid Waste Management District. Students learn about recycling and share the information with their families. The parents or guardians sign the pledge cards, and the students return them. Over 400 families took the "recycling pledge" in 2007.

DOES' Solid Waste District is dedicated to promoting recycling, waste reduction, and responsible waste management within Hamilton County. Their outreach to the schools is an important part of their efforts!

For more information about DOES' Solid Waste District, visit this website:

<http://www.hcdoes.org/sw/swhome.htm>



Charleston April 1995

Charleston is bright and intelligent. He is very quiet; initially he is shy until he becomes comfortable. He can be very engaging when he chooses to be.

Charleston doesn't enjoy school much, because he gets frustrated when he is unable to complete his work. He also has some problems at times with authority figures. Charleston is easily frustrated and needs help managing his anger.

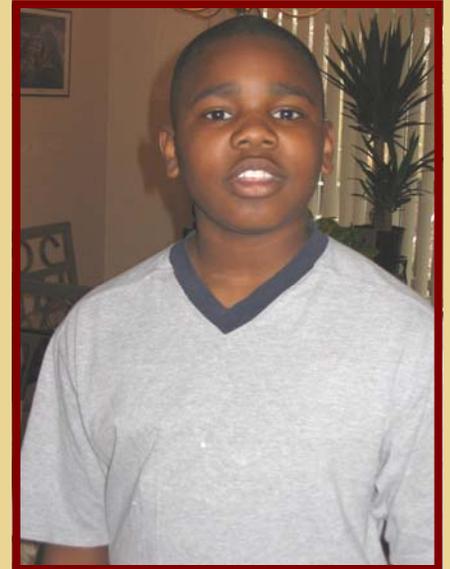
Many times Charleston seems more like an adult than a child. He is in therapy and works hard to help himself. Sometimes he mixes up words in his attempt to make his point.

Charleston enjoys sports and sporting activities. This season Charleston is beginning to play football. He especially enjoys family and outdoor activities. He enjoys riding his bike and attempting tricks with his bike.

Charleston would thrive in a nurturing, supportive, active family, especially if they enjoy sports and outdoor activities. Hopefully the adults can model how to express emotions appropriately.

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

A Caring Family is Needed!



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

Hello Hamilton County is published twice each month. 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 web pages. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus or Eric Stuckey.

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