



NEWS RELEASE

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44 teens in Hamilton County's foster system are honored at 'Celebration of Dreams'

CINCINNATI, Ohio - More than 40 teens in Hamilton County's foster care system bid farewell to high school and hello to their futures at this year's "A Celebration of Dreams".

The eighth annual event was held June 15 at the Montgomery Inn Banquet Center and organized by the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services and the Foster Child Enrichment Council. It marks a transition for these teens from foster care to college, a job – and life on their own.

"It's a big day for these kids," said Bobette Arnold, one of the organizers for this year's event. "Getting through school is hard enough. These kids have done it while facing enormous life challenges like drug addiction abandonment or domestic violence. Some have even moved between foster homes several times. It's really neat to see them come through all those challenges and do well."

In addition to presenting each of the 44 graduates with certificates of achievement, FCEC also awarded \$9750 in scholarships to 15 students whose plans include college or trade schools such as Cincinnati State, the University of Toledo, Northern Kentucky University, and the Great Oaks School of Practical Nursing.

"A Celebration of Dreams" and the scholarships are funded through private donations. All students also receive duffle bags with household and school supplies.

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