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**Hamilton County Rounds Up All of Child Support's Most Wanted
County Will Issue Second Poster for First Time Ever**

Cincinnati (Jan. 8, 2007) All eight of the people depicted on a Hamilton County Most Wanted poster for failing to pay child support have been rounded up within five months of the poster's August release.

For the first time ever, the county will issue a second poster within a calendar year. The Most Wanted posters are traditionally issued annually, and it is rare that everyone on the previous poster has been arrested by the time the new one is issued, let alone within six months.

"To the best of my knowledge, no county in Ohio has ever rounded up everyone on their poster within six months of issuing it," said Jeffrey Startzman, assistant director of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services' Child Support Enforcement Agency. "The public responded quickly and decisively and, with tremendous help from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, we were able to quickly track down these deadbeat parents and hold them accountable for supporting their children."

Juan Matthews, who owes more than \$40,000 to three children, was the latest arrest. Police tracked him down in the West End and he is being held in the Hamilton County Justice Center on \$22,000 bond.

Startzman said a second poster would be issued within months and he'd be ecstatic if all of those depicted were tracked down before August.

"If we could clear two posters worth of offenders within one calendar year, it would be a testament to the public's intolerance of those who won't support their children and the dedication of our people and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department," he said. "But most importantly, it would mean that several more children in this county had a chance at getting the financial support they deserve and need."

The Department's Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 95,000 cases right now. Last year, it collected \$155 million for families that might not otherwise have had the financial support necessary to pay for such items as food, medical care, child care, school clothes and school supplies. Many of the children who do not receive child support turn to public assistance, with taxpayers providing financial support.

The poster was created in August as part of Child Support Awareness Month. The poster includes the person's photo, name, age, last-known address and occupation, number of children and amount owed.

To appear on the poster, the whereabouts of the absent parent must be unknown and the parent with custody of the children must sign a waiver. In addition, a person must have a warrant for their arrest for either failure to appear in court or criminal non-support. The eight people depicted on the poster owed an average of \$50,000 in child support payments.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency sent the posters to community partners, post offices and tax preparation services throughout the Tristate area.

In addition to the Most Wanted poster, Hamilton County Child Support uses a variety of tools to collect child support, including freezing and seizing funds from bank accounts, intercepting tax refunds and suspending licenses.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of Matthews can call the Sheriff's Office at 946-5350. Also, more parents wanted for failing to pay child support can be found at www.hcso.org. Choose Deadbeats from the Public Services menu. Tipsters can remain anonymous.

About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, adult protection, child care, tuberculosis control, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands of residents each year. The Department of Job and Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.