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**Hamilton County Kicks Off National Adoption Month with  
Private Movie Screening for Adoptive and Foster Care Families**

**Cincinnati (Oct. 31, 2007)** Hamilton County's adoptive and foster families will attend an exclusive private showing of the movie MARTIAN CHILD tomorrow night to kick off the celebration of National Adoption Month.

The invitation-only screening, arranged by New Line Cinema, will be held at Cincinnati's Showcase Cinemas, 1701 Showcase Drive, at 7 p.m. Adoptive and foster care parents and children will be available for media interviews before or after the movie.

MARTIAN CHILD, starring John Cusack, is the story of an adopted child who believes he's from Mars. A series of strange occurrences leads the boy's adoptive father, Cusack, to believe the claim may be true. The movie will be released in theaters nationwide on Nov. 2.

The private screening is one of several events Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services has planned to celebrate National Adoption Month. The agency, which has about 215 children awaiting adoption and about 850 in foster care, also plans:

- **Nov. 7:** An informal informational event at College Hill Coffee on Hamilton Avenue for people interested in learning more about foster care and adoption.
- **Nov. 17:** A mass adoption finalization event at the Hamilton County Probate Court.
- **Nov. 17:** An appreciation event for adoptive and foster care families at Cincinnati Zoo's Festival of Lights.
- **Nov. 18:** Child-specific recruiters will attend Cincinnati Bengals' games with waiting children and prospective parents.

In addition, throughout the month recruitment ads will run on the sides of Metro buses and informational bulletins will be available for local churches and other places of worship.

Hamilton County investigates approximately 6,000 reports of child abuse and neglect a year. When intensive services fail and a child can no longer remain safe in a parent's care, the county will seek custody of the child and attempt to find a safe and loving adoptive home.

That's sometimes a tough task. The children often suffer the physical, psychological or behavioral effects of abuse or have other special needs that require therapy and other substantive care many parents are unable, or unwilling, to provide.

Those interested in adopting or becoming foster parents can learn more at [www.hcadopt.org](http://www.hcadopt.org) or [www.hcfoster.org](http://www.hcfoster.org), or by calling (513) 632-6366 or e-mailing [adoption@jfs.hamilton-co.org](mailto:adoption@jfs.hamilton-co.org).

**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.