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Hamilton County Plans Mass Adoption to Celebrate National Adoption Day

Cincinnati (Nov. 15, 2007) Five families will finalize the adoption of eight children before Hamilton County Probate Court Judge James C. Cissell Saturday in a Mass Adoption event planned to celebrate National Adoption Day.

The event – the largest adoption “event” in recent county history -- will start at 10 a.m. at Hamilton County’s Probate Court, 230 9th St. (12th floor). A celebration will be held afterward. While adoption finalizations are normally confidential procedures, the media is invited to this event.

Hamilton County’s Department of Job and Family Services is on pace for a record number of adoptions of abused and neglected children and this event will boost those numbers even higher. The county will have 114 adoptions finalized after this event, far more than last year’s 83. The record for county adoptions is 124 in 1997.

“We’re extremely excited about our success this year and attribute it to hiring several new recruiters and a greater awareness in the community about the importance of helping children through adoption,” said Moira Weir, director of the Department, which has more than 200 children available for adoption. “This mass adoption is a great way to celebrate our success and we’re very grateful for the support we’ve received from the families and the Probate Court.”

The county also conducts targeted community recruitment efforts that concentrate on groups of available children, as well as general recruitment efforts to create awareness.

November is National Adoption Month and Job and Family Services has held several events, including:

- **Nov. 1:** An exclusive pre-release private screening of the movie “MARTIAN CHILD” for invited adoptive and foster care families.
- **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:** 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 or www.hcfoster.org, or by calling (513) 632-6366 or e-mailing 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.