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Hamilton County Recorder Receives Award for Child Support Collection Efforts

Cincinnati (Nov. 14, 2007) Hamilton County Recorder Rebecca Prem Groppe recently received the Partner of the Year Award from the Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agency Director's Association for partnering with the county's Department of Job and Family Services in an innovative effort to collect child support.

The county program places Administrative Child Support liens on the properties of parents with delinquent child support. Since its implementation in 2006, over 2,200 liens have been filed and the Department of Job and Family Services has collected nearly \$127,000 in child support for the children of Hamilton County.

"This is a tremendous tool for our department; something we now are using more and more, whenever there has been a legal determination that someone is in 'default' of their support obligation," said Jeffrey Startzman, assistant director of the Department of Job and Family Services' Child Support Services Division, who nominated Groppe for the award. "We're appreciative that Ms. Groppe has so willingly dedicated staff and resources to improving the lives of Hamilton County's children."

Groppe received her award, which recognizes those outside of child support enforcement agencies who contribute to the success of child support programs, prior to detailing the success of the program to the Director's Association.

Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 93,000 cases a year. 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.

In addition to liens, the agency uses a variety of tools to help collect child support, including Most Wanted Posters, suspending driver's licenses, suspending professional licenses, garnishing wages, freezing and seizing funds from bank accounts, restricting passports and intercepting tax refunds.

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 coverage. 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.