



Main Office: 222 East Central Parkway • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1225

Neighborhood Center: 237 Wm. Howard Taft • Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

General Information: (513) 946-1000

General Information TDD: (513) 946-1295

FAX: (513) 946-2250

www.hcifs.org

www.hcadopt.org

www.hcfoster.org

Media Contact:

Brian Gregg

Media Spokesperson/Communications Manager

E-mail: greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org

Phone: 513-946-1728

Fax: 513-946-2248

Hamilton County Plans Mass Adoption Event, Other Activities to Celebrate Adoption Month

Cincinnati (Nov. 10, 2007) Seven children will officially join permanent, loving families this Friday in Hamilton County's second annual mass adoption ceremony to celebrate National Adoption Month.

The county's Job and Family Services Department is teaming with the county's Probate Court to organize the adoption event. Seven children, all victims of abuse and neglect, will join five families. A celebration will be held afterward. While adoption finalizations are normally confidential, the families have agreed to invite the media to this event.

"Our mass adoption ceremony was so emotional and uplifting last year – it stands as a symbol for all the wonderful adoptions we arrange each year," said Moira Weir, director of the Job and Family Services department. "We want to make this an annual event. It is among the happiest days of the year for our families, children and staff members."

Hamilton County is on pace for about 130 adoptions this year. Last year, the agency set a record with 135. About 215 children, all victims of abuse or neglect, are available for adoption at any one time.

Among those who will be adopted Friday:

- Two young brothers, ages 4 and 1, who will be adopted by the foster family that has cared for them since they were infants.
- A 2-year-old boy who will be adopted by his foster mother, a registered nurse who became a foster mother after seeing children abandoned at the hospital.
- A young boy and a young girl, ages 2 and 1, who will be adopted by their foster parents, who already have four other adopted children.
- An 11-year-old boy who has excelled at school and sports since moving in with his foster – now adoptive – parents three years ago.
- A 17-year-old boy who is being adopted by the foster mother who has cared for him for the past six years. She's a native of Jamaica and he is eager to travel to her native homeland and learn about his new family's roots.

November is National Adoption Month. The month's activities also include:

- **Nov. 1:** A select group of adoptive families will attend the movie premiere of Madagascar II.
- **Nov. 2:** Six children waiting for families will attend a Bengals' game in the Hamilton County suite with several families that are considering adoption. They will be visited two Ben-Gal cheerleaders during the game.
- **Nov. 9:** An appreciation event for JFS adoptive families at Newport Aquarium.
- **Nov. 10:** A recruitment event at the West End Library, 805 Ezzard Charles Drive, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Nov. 13:** An online chat from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. where the public can ask questions about adoption. Visit www.hcjfs.org to sign up.
- **Nov. 17:** A recruitment event at the Northside Library, 4219 Hamilton Ave., from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Appearances on public broadcasting and public access television throughout the month.

Hamilton County investigates more than 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.

Those interested in adopting or becoming foster parents can learn more at www.hcadopt.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.