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Fun Event Recognizes and Celebrates Foster and Adoptive Families

Cincinnati (May 13, 2008) Foster and adoptive parents who selflessly dedicate their lives to helping children will be honored with butterflies, a drumline performance and recognition from local dignitaries on Wednesday, May 14.

The Southwest Ohio Family Care Affiliate (SWOFCA) will host its annual Butterflies and Blue Ribbons event to honor foster and adoptive parents from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Krohn Conservatory in Eden Park. The event will feature a special butterfly showing for foster, adoptive and kinship families, displays by public and private foster/adoption agencies and a performance by the Withrow High School Drumline "Def Squad."

MOJO's Faith Daniels (WMOJ-FM) will emcee the event, which will also feature food, music, face painting, clowns, juggling, balloons and other activities. Other attendees include representatives from three local public Children's Services agencies: Moira Weir, director of Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services; Tim McCartney, director of Clermont County's Department of Job and Family Services; and Mike Fox, director of Butler County's Children's Services Department.

The event also serves as an opportunity for prospective adoptive and foster parents to get information to help them make the decision to open their hearts and homes to children. In Hamilton County alone, approximately 850 children are in foster care each day, and 250 children await adoption. All are victims of abuse or neglect.

"We'd love to see people interested in fostering or adopting come out for this fun event," said Sherrie Mathis of SWOFCA. "It is a great chance to meet the children and talk to parents who do this on a daily basis and are the best sources of information about what it takes to be a good parent for these children."

Weir, of Hamilton County, said Butterflies and Blue Ribbons is a small way to reward the county's foster parents who sacrifice so much.

"This is a small way to say thanks for all the times we knock on their door at night or all the times they take off work to shuttle a child to a doctor's appointment," she said. "It is nice to periodically have fun events like this where the whole family can relax and enjoy themselves."