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[www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org)

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**Hamilton County Teams with the Cincinnati Reds to Salute Foster Parents**

**Cincinnati (May 23, 2008)** Foster parents will be honored at Tuesday's Cincinnati Reds game for opening their homes and hearts to Hamilton County's abused and neglected children.

The Reds have offered discounted tickets to foster families and one family will be invited on to the field prior to the game to yell "Play Ball!" and start the action against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Foster Family Night will feature other ballpark activities and a stadium booth where fans can learn more about foster parenting.

"We're extremely excited to honor our foster parents for their sacrifices and we'd love it if more Reds' fans join our team and help us care for children who really need something positive in their lives," said Moira Weir, director of the Job and Family Services department. "Foster parenting is a very rewarding experience that provides the opportunity to change a life and change our community. We're in dire need of new parents and we see this as an opportunity to generate interest and hit a home run for our children."

Hamilton County has about 850 foster children on any given day and has lost 100 foster homes over the past few years. Many children are split up from siblings, have to change schools and are placed far from neighborhoods and friends because local foster home capacity has diminished.

The agency recently stepped up recruiting activities to meet the need. In addition to traditional recruitment activities and special events such as this, the agency is also part of community-wide recruitment campaign entitled "Everyday Heroes."

For more information about becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent, call (513) 632-6366 or visit [www.hcfoster.org](http://www.hcfoster.org) and [www.hcadopt.org](http://www.hcadopt.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, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.