



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

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

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

**Media Contact:**

Brian Gregg

Media Spokesperson/Communications Manager

E-mail: [greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org](mailto:greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org)

Phone: 513-946-1728

Fax: 513-946-2248

**More than 200 Foster and Adoptive Parents to Attend Conference  
and Discuss Better Ways to Parent and Raise Successful Children**

**Cincinnati (May 15, 2008)** More than 200 Southwest Ohio foster and adoptive parents will spend Friday and Saturday attending workshops such as “Look Out! There’s a Teenager in Our House” and “Parenting the Sexually Abused Children” in an attempt to learn the best ways to care for their foster and adoptive children.

The Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Conference comes at a crucial time, when the region faces a shortage of foster parents and foster children often face long waits for adoptive parents. In Hamilton County alone, 850 foster children are in the care of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services every day. And, while the Department set a record with 135 adoptions last year, approximately 260 children are awaiting adoption.

“We’re extremely grateful our foster and adoptive parents care enough to take time out of their own schedules for increased training,” said Moira Weir, director of the Job and Family Services department. “We know we have many loving parents who want to do what is best for our children. But we need more of them.”

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Eastgate, 4501 Eastgate Boulevard. Organized by the Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center, the workshops will count toward the mandated training a foster parent must take for licensing.

The conference’s keynote address will be delivered by Michael Sanders, an independent trainer and consultant who is currently providing assistance to the Anne E. Casey Foundation’s Family-to-Family Initiative, the California Permanency for Youth Project and the California Connected by 25 Initiative. He is a national expert focused on giving youth “voice and choice.”

Sanders will lead a panel of former foster children in what foster parents can do to help ensure their foster children succeed in life. The discussion will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and the media is invited.

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.