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**Information, fun highlight adoption and foster care event  
at Great Commission Bible Church**

**Cincinnati (April 21, 2008)** Hamilton County residents who wonder whether foster parenting is right for them can get answers and information at a foster care event on Saturday, May 3, at Great Commission Bible Church.

The Adoption and Foster Care Recruitment unit of the Department of Hamilton County Job and Family Services, in partnership with Great Commission, 10200 Hamilton Ave., will host visitors from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees can hear from a current foster parent about what motivates people to become foster parents, the training process required to be a foster parent and the benefits to her family and the children she has fostered.

John Cummings, manager of Adoption and Foster Care Recruitment at the agency, said Hamilton County has about 850 foster children on any given day and only about agency 260 homes to care for them.

“Fewer foster homes in Hamilton County means children in foster care are being placed further and further from home,” Cummings said. “That distance means it’s harder for kids and parents to visit, and increases the likelihood that siblings will be separated. It’s important to help children in our care to stay close and maintain connections.”

The agency has stepped up its recruiting activities to meet the need, Cummings said. 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.”

Kenny Smith, a member of NBC’s Clash of the Choirs winning “Team Cincinnati”, will perform with his gospel group, Peace & Serenity Ministries. The first 100 adults will receive a door prize, and face painting and balloons will be available to children attending with their parents.

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, 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.