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**Filmmaker to Discuss Family Addiction and Deterioration  
At Benefit for Local Foster Care Community**

*Film shows powerful impact loving foster parents can have on abused children*

**Cincinnati (Sept. 30, 2009)** A professional filmmaker and former foster child will share her life's story – a tale of her mother's drug addiction, her family breakup and her time in the child welfare system – at an Oct. 13 event designed to benefit the area's foster care community.

Selena Burks, producer of the powerful film *Saving Jackie*, will discuss her life as the daughter of a crack-addicted mother and absent father and how a loving foster mother helped turn Burks' life around and send her on the road to success. Her presentation, scheduled for 6 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Mayerson Jewish Community Center, 8485 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, is being hosted by the Everyday Heroes collaborative of foster care providers.

The event is open to foster parents, friends of foster parents and members of the public who are interested in becoming foster parents. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and want to hear this presentation, please call 946-7587 to register. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by Oct. 6.

The documentary *Saving Jackie* is an intimate portrait of a middle-class family destroyed by the abusive nature of drug addiction. Jackie – a 42 year-old recovering crack-cocaine addict – takes an intense look at her life through the course of the film. She eventually acknowledges and accepts responsibility for the deterioration of her relationships with her two daughters, Selena and Lorita.

*Saving Jackie* examines the long-term side effects of abusive behaviors on family relationships. Burks documents her family's healing process over the course of three-and-a-half years by capturing life changing events, such as Lorita's senior prom and her own college graduation, through the use of candid interviews and family photographs.

Burks, a Rockefeller Foundation grant winner who has worked with famous film producer Oliver Stone, shows her film to foster parents, churches, drug rehabilitation centers, youth groups, high schools and universities in an attempt to convey the message of forgiveness portrayed in the film.

*Saving Jackie* premiered at the 2005 *Sundance International Film Festival* and was also an Official Selection of the 2005 *Cleveland International Film Festival*, 2005 *Urbanworld Film Festival*, First Annual *Black Eyed Susan Film Festival*, the 2005 *Black Harvest Film Festival* and the 2005 *African American Film Marketplace*. More information on the film can be found at [www.savingjackie.org](http://www.savingjackie.org).

The Everyday Heroes collaborative is a partnership between Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services and several private foster care agencies with a goal of recruiting more foster families for the region's foster children. In Hamilton County alone, more than 800 children a day need temporary homes with loving families because they are the victims of abuse or neglect. The department also has about 215 children available for adoption.

**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.