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Fun Event Recognizes and Celebrates Foster and Adoptive Families

Cincinnati (May 18, 2010) Foster and adoptive parents who selflessly dedicate their lives to helping children will be honored at the annual Butterflies and Blue Ribbons event on Wednesday, May 19.

The Southwest Ohio Family Care Affiliate (SWOFCA) will honor foster and adoptive parents from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Krohn Conservatory in Eden Park. The event will feature speakers, food and fun for all. After the event, foster, adoptive and kinship families, will tour the butterfly display and view butterflies from Japan.

Sandra Holt, deputy director of the Office for Families and Children at the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, will be the keynote speaker and Steve Norris, meteorologist of WCPO Channel 9 will be the Master of Ceremony.

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 225 children await adoption. All are victims of abuse or neglect.

“This is not only an event to say a huge thanks to everyone who dedicates their time to the foster children of our region,” said Deb McMullen, SWOFCA’s program director. “This is a time to re-emphasize the need for loving foster and adoptive parents. If you are even a bit curious, stop by and get your questions answered.”

Moira Weir, director of Hamilton County’s Department of Job and Family Services, said the SWOFCA event is a tremendous opportunity to say thanks to the hundreds of foster parents in southwest Ohio who sacrifice so much.

“It takes a special person to open their hearts and homes to someone else’s child,” she said. “It takes an even greater person to shuttle that child to a half dozen medical appointments a month, or to spend hours teaching them to drive, or to spend money on tutors so they can get into college. We cannot ever do enough to thank our foster families.”