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Fun Event Recognizes and Celebrates Foster and Adoptive Families

Cincinnati (May 17, 2011) 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 18.

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. The official program begins at 4 p.m. After the event, families will tour the colorful butterfly display.

“This is our chance to say thanks and offer words of encouragement and hope to all those who dedicate their lives to helping the children of this community,” said Deb McMullen, SWOFCA’s program director. “We want the parents to have a brief respite from the everyday grind. This is a fun, free event that should capture their children’s attention.”

The event also serves as an opportunity for prospective adoptive and foster parents to receive information on opening 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.

Moira Weir, director of Hamilton County’s Department of Job and Family Services, said anyone interested in becoming a foster parent should stop by to learn more and join in the fun.

She added that abused and neglected children are more at risk of dropping out of school, committing crimes, getting pregnant and falling victim to other social problems that drain communities. But with the proper intervention from a loving foster or adoptive parent, a troubled life could easily become a positive one and an abused child could turn out to be an artist, attorney, physician, athlete or other contributing member of the community.

“Foster parents are special people who put up with busy schedules and intrusive monitoring because they want to help a child and help this community,” she said. “We cannot thank them enough and this event is just one way of showing our appreciation. I know that May is National Foster Care Month, but, truly, we should spend every day thanking these families for helping to make the Cincinnati region a better place to live.”