

## Division of Children and Family Services Community Newsletter

January 2019, Issue 6

### News and Updates

#### DCFS In Your Neighborhood

Keeping children safe from abuse and neglect is the main focus for The Division of Children and Family Services, but we can't do it alone. We rely on the help and support of the entire community to help keep children safe and families healthy. We want you to get to know us, learn what we do, and how we can work together to help families.

DCFS will be **In Your Neighborhood** throughout 2019 to present focused topics and have staff available to address specific cases and personal questions. These events will be held monthly at our Neighborhood Collaborative locations.

Our first **In Your Neighborhood** event will be held at the Harvard Community Center on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, from 4:00pm-6:00pm. We'll give an overview of what we do, and what resources we can offer to help families parent safely. These events are open to everyone. Please help us share this information.

Event:           **DCFS In Your Neighborhood**  
Date:            Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Time:            4:00pm – 6:00 pm  
Location:       Harvard Community Center  
                    18240 Harvard Avenue  
                    Cleveland, OH 44128

#### HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS REACHES A RECORD NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A record number of more than 3,000 local children and families received new toys, bicycles and personalized gifts during Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Service's (DCFS) annual Hope for the Holidays campaign. The campaign benefits children in foster care and kinship care, plus families that need extra help.

**"Our Hope for the Holidays campaign is all about making the season a little brighter for families and children that are going through tough times,"** said Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish.

Hope for the Holidays events and activities are possible thanks to donations from individuals, families, churches, schools and businesses. Community partners also provide essential support by organizing fundraising efforts and toy drives.

**“Every year our community steps up to help those less fortunate. But this year, the outpouring of support has been unprecedented,”** said DCFS Director Cynthia Weiskittel. **“Thanks to generous individual donations and incredible support from local partners, we’re able to spread holiday cheer to more children and families than ever before.”**

Over 1000 children and foster parents attended a holiday party with gifts and pictures with Santa, cookies and milk, and holiday crafts. Employees also delivered gifts to families who could not attend. Volunteers with non-profit group [Together We Rise](#) assembled 167 new bicycles for children in county custody. More than 275 families in need also received gifts through DCFS’ ‘adopt a family’ program. Each family was matched to a donor, who then purchased individualized gifts based on each child’s age and interests. All totaled more than 3,000 children received a gift through our holiday program.

### **COUNTY EXPANDS NEWBORN HOMEVISIT PROGRAM**

Cuyahoga County approved additional funding to the Newborn Home Visiting Program. The program, administered by Invest in Children in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County District Board of Health, provides a free in-home visit to low-income and teenage mothers within the first few weeks of bringing a baby home.

**“The Newborn Home Visiting Program is an important component in our work to lower the county’s infant mortality rate,”** said Rebekah Dorman, Director of Cuyahoga County’s Invest in Children. **“It’s all about setting up children and families for success. The program helps identify potential issues early, and it gives us a chance to connect families to other community resources that will help their children thrive.”**

Invest in Children is a key partner in the First Year Cleveland Collaborative whose mission is to significantly reduce Cuyahoga County’s infant mortality rates. Through investment in home site visits like the Newborn Home Visiting Program, the infant mortality rate was reduced by more than 20 percent since 2015.

For more information on the program, visit <http://www.ccbh.net/newborn-home-visiting-program/>.

### **Featured Neighborhood Collaborative**

#### **Murtis Taylor – Mt. Pleasant**

13411 Union Avenue  
Cleveland Ohio 44120  
216-283-4400  
[murtistaylor.org](http://murtistaylor.org)

Murtis Taylor Human Services System’s Mount Pleasant Community Based Services (CBS) Program is staffed with a Supervisor, two (2) Case Managers and one (1) Resource Specialist. We are committed to keeping children safe from child abuse and neglect and to help families reduce further involvement with the Cuyahoga County Division of Children & Family Services (DCFS). Our program is intended to empower individuals and families by providing support to aid them in their move to self-sufficiency and ultimately, to transition out of poverty. Our CBS Program includes but is not limited to providing wraparound family case management, referrals and links to other services and agencies, transportation assistance, clothing distribution, child enrichment centers, family and child visitation facilities, employment leads, car and booster seat distribution, emergency family financial assistance, foster and kinship care support, parenting education, independent living classes, holiday giveaways, fatherhood programming and family financial planning.

Here at Murtis Taylor Human Services System, we have developed partnerships with other community service agencies such as Shoes & Clothes for Kids and University Hospitals’ Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital to provide clothes, coats, shoes and car booster seats. Through these types of partnerships, we help individuals and families gain access to needed resources. Every month we host a community collaborative partners meeting which is an opportunity for new and existing community partners to gather and share their respective agency’s services, updates and upcoming events and in turn we share that information with our families to aid them in accessing the resources and/or services they need. For more information, please contact Melody Graham, System of Care Coordinator at 216-283-4400, x2319 and/or [mgraham@murtistaylor.org](mailto:mgraham@murtistaylor.org).

## DCFS Facts and Figures

### Custody Data as of January 3, 2019

Court Ordered Protective Supervision (COPS) Children	733
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Children	2,756
<b>Custody Type</b>	
Emergency Custody/Ex-parte/Officer Acceptance/Agency Authority	754
Initial Voluntary Agreement for Custody	3
Permanent Custody/Surrender	553
Planned Perm. Living Arrangement (PPLA)	54

Temp. Custody 1st Extension	109
Temp. Custody 2nd Extension	38
Temporary Custody/Court Order	1,008
Total	2,519

[More details here.](#) \*This report is updated weekly every Monday.

[Read the DCFS Yearly Statistical Report here](#)

## Resources

[Online Resource Guide](#)

[Neighborhood Collaboratives](#)

[Mandated Reporting](#)

[Quality Parenting Initiative](#)

[Online Caregiver/Parenting Videos](#)

[Foster Parent Training Schedule](#)

[Adoptable Kids](#)