



Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive

Cuyahoga Job and Family Services

Division of Children and Family Services Community Newsletter

November 2018, Issue 4

News and Updates

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month. As you prepare to spend the holidays with your family, think of the children who need a family to call their own.

To commemorate National Adoption Month, DCFS will host several events to promote and celebrate adoption. Events include a free screening of the new film, [*Instant Family*](#) and a recognition event at a Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game.

There are more than 500 children in the permanent custody of Cuyahoga County. More than 200 of them need a forever family. Children range in age from infants to 17-year-olds and come from a variety of backgrounds. Many have siblings also up for adoption, and several children have special needs. From toddlers to teens and sibling groups they all want the same thing; a family that will love them, protect them, and stick by them no matter what.

This year 102 children have been adopted from Cuyahoga County DCFS.

Call 216-881-5775 for more information on adoption or visit everychildneedsfamily.com to see adoptable children and find more information on adoption requirements and processes.

Adoption Month Events:

Instant Family Movie Screening

Took place on Thursday, Nov. 1 at Regal Cinemas, Crocker Park.

Cleveland Cavaliers Adoption Recognition Event

Monday, Nov. 26

Quicken Loans Arena

1 Center Court

Ticket holders and invited guests.



Featured Neighborhood Collaborative

Fatima Family Center

6600 Lexington Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44103

(216) 391-0505

<https://ccdogle.org/facility/fatima-family-center>

A History of The Fatima Family Center's Hough Services Providers Network-

A Tradition of Partnership and Community Responsive Services

By Sheila A. Ferguson, Ph.D., LPCC, CBS Program Director at the Fatima Family Center

The Fatima Family Center conveniently located in the Father Albert House at 6600 Lexington Avenue in Cleveland is home to the Hough Services Provider's Network (HSPN), a 20+ member strong collaborative of area non-profits, religious and governmental agencies. Founded in 1992, members came together to share resources, expertise and communication relative to helping area families eliminate barriers to living their best lives. HSPN service specialties include education, social and vocational services, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, adult and senior services, child development, domestic violence, recreation, hunger, legal aid, safety/law enforcement and women's chemical dependency and drop-in center support. Historically HSPN's Community Based Services focus has been to 1) enrich quality of family life and health; 2) keep families from ever entering the child welfare system; and 3) to help those families with children in care attain immediate reunification.

The Fatima Family Center and Hough Service Provider's Network (HSPN) have been at the forefront of pioneering best practices in child welfare as one of DCFS's 10-original Family to Family sites supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Since the late 1990's this program has recognized the value of community partnerships and the benefits of using local agencies to provide services and awareness out in the communities where families live.

HSPN serves both Non-DCFS and DCFS involved families with minor children primarily living in the Hough, Goodrich and lower downtown communities. HSPN has a proud history of providing life cycle development programming initiatives like; after-school, summer camping, Adult Basic Education, Adult-Senior Services, Waiting to Exhale Respite, Family Travel, Community Banking, Community Table, Clothing Boutique, Food Bank Services, Physical Exam Rooms, Fitness and Exercise facilities, Community Forums, Police-Youth Community Policing and Relationship Building and Spiritual Development. Our supplemental Child Welfare innovations have included the promotion of Shared Family Living and the Out-of-the Box Independent Living Group Mentoring Model which is the forerunner of Open Table.

Because of their long history and broad spectrum of services and partners the Fatima Center can assist families working with DCFS reach their goals, including reunifying families where children have been in custody and even helping some families avoid custody. In addition,

Catholic Charities is a primary partner in identifying, preparing and supporting families to foster and adopt children who are not able to return to their biological parents.

For a list of similar programs at other neighborhood partners, click on the Neighborhood Collaboratives link below.

DCFS and JFS Provide Safe Option for Trick or Treating



On the afternoon of Friday, October 26, the halls of the DCFS building at 40th and Euclid were transformed into a magical wonderland that included scenes out of Harry Potter, Never Never Land, Trolls, Disney Palaces and Dr. Seuss destinations. The offices at Quincy Place and Old Brooklyn decorated as well and the employees at Cuyahoga Job and Family Services on Payne Avenue hosted their celebration October 30. The buildings went all out to create well known children's themes and many employees dressed up in character to further promote the fun. County Health and Human Service offices have set aside a day to decorate and dress up for Halloween for years to provide a safe inviting opportunity for children involved with the agencies to put on their costumes and stroll the buildings to collect candy and hugs from employees. The event provides families, especially those with small children, a warm, dry and safe place to trick or treat and provides a little stress relief for parents as well. This year a few hundred families participated and co-workers voted on the best decorated department.

Help Make a Child's Holiday Bright



During the holiday season the Division of Children and Family Services helps make holiday wishes come true for hundreds of children in foster care or whose family needs a little extra support to stay strong and stable. You can help by donating to any of the following programs:

Hope for the Holidays

Hope for the Holidays is our annual gift program for children and teens in foster care. In early December, we invite children and foster parents to our building for a holiday party, where they choose a brand new toy, game, and book for themselves or a sibling. Children can also take a picture with Santa, enjoy homemade cookies and milk, and create a holiday craft.

This program is made possible by gifts from generous donors like you from churches, businesses, schools, families and individuals. Every gift makes a difference! [Find out how to donate.](#)

Adopt a Family

DCFS helps hundreds of families remain together through various supportive services. If you would like to help a family in need you can adopt a family for the holiday. We will provide you with basic information such the number of children, ages, genders, clothing sizes, and wish lists. Then you can purchase gifts specifically for that family and wrap them. Workers deliver the gifts to the selected family before Christmas. [Sign up to adopt a family.](#)

Donate services or special items

If you have a special gift or service you would like to donate for our children and teens that is not listed above please let us know. You may have clothes, bikes, salon services, special event tickets, or another way you or your business would like to contribute. Please contact Kristin Gardner at 216-881-5301 or kristin.gardner@jfs.ohio.gov

DCFS Facts and Figures

Custody Data as of November 5, 2018

| | |
|--|-------|
| Court Ordered Protective Supervision (COPS) Children | 710 |
| In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Children | 2,778 |

Custody Type

| | |
|--|-----|
| Emergency Custody/Ex-parte/Officer Acceptance/Agency Authority | 750 |
| Initial Voluntary Agreement for Custody | 5 |
| Permanent Custody/Surrender | 537 |
| Planned Perm. Living Arrangement (PPLA) | 51 |
| Temp. Custody 1st Extension | 98 |
| Temp. Custody 2nd Extension | 47 |
| Temporary Custody/Court Order | 993 |

Total

2,481

[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](#)