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Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services Honors Foster Youth Graduates

Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services will honor 120 graduating youth on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. The graduation ceremony will be held at The City Club of Cleveland, located at 850 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Honorees include foster youth and former foster youth who have graduated high school, received their General Equivalence Diploma (GED) and obtained college degrees. This year's theme is entitled, "Roads to Success, Lead to Windows of Opportunity." Director Deborah Forkas stated, "Our youth have faced personal obstacles but their perseverance has seen them through even the greatest of challenges." Her message to the graduating class is to, "Always bear in mind that their resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing."

Thirty youth plan to further their education by attending college or a vocational school. Students plan to attend Bowling Green State University, Cleveland State University, Cosmetology School, Cuyahoga Community College, Culinary School, Kent State University, Ohio Technical College, The University of Akron, The University of Toledo, University of Miami and Youngstown State University. Two students have earned full scholarships.

The graduation class will receive stipends to assist in apartment or college dormitory setup. Graduates will also receive digital cameras, refurbished computers and graduation photos donated by Cleveland Botanical Gardens. CCDCFS expects 250 people to attend the ceremony.

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Mission Statement
The purpose of the Department of Children and Family Services
is to assure that children at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and nurtured
within a family and with the support of the community.