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For Immediate Release

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Lowe's Heroes Creates Urban Garden For Outdoor Family Visitations

Three area Lowe's Stores will donate materials and labor to create an outdoor urban garden for families visiting children in temporary care of Cuyahoga County. Construction will begin Wednesday, July 29th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Jane Edna Hunter building located on 3955 Euclid Avenue.

Each year Lowe's Heroes volunteer program helps to improve the communities where Lowe's employees work and live. Fifteen employees from the donating stores of Strongsville, Macedonia and Willoughby will volunteer to produce an alternate outdoor space for families visiting approximately 516 children in temporary care of Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services.

The urban garden will promote both health and wellness for families served by CCDCFS during the warmer months of the year. According to the Monitor on Psychology, "Increasing evidence demonstrates the many benefits of nature on children's psychological and physical well-being, including reduced stress, greater physical health, more creativity and improved concentration." Director Deborah Forkas stated, "We wanted to provide families with an area offering a least restrictive setting by creating a family friendly outdoor environment for, we know that family visitation is key to family reunification."

The location of the urban garden is designated for the back of the Jane Edna Hunter building. The project is slated for completion by July 30, 2009.

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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.