



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

November 14, 2003

“We will serve the residents of Hamilton County by providing the best and most responsive county government in America.”
— Hamilton County Vision

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'Tis The Season . . . JFS Holiday Gift Drive For Children

The Hamilton County Job and Family Services (JFS) Children's Services division is preparing to launch its holiday gift collection for abused and neglected children.

More than 7,000 children are in the care of Children's Services, the JFS division which investigates allegations of abuse and neglect and works to protect vulnerable children. To keep children safe, sometimes the agency finds it necessary to remove them from home and send them to live with relatives or foster parents. Other times, they are safe to remain at home while JFS caseworkers help their families cope with problems such as mental illness, substance abuse, lack of parenting skills and inadequate housing.

For these children, the holidays can be a season of painful contrasts between them and their more fortunate peers. Your gifts can bring a sparkle to their eyes and a smile to their faces.

Following is a list of guidelines for donating gifts and a gift suggestion list.

Gift Guidelines

- ◆ No violence-oriented action toys.
- ◆ Gifts should be culturally-diverse (e.g., African-American dolls).
- ◆ **All gifts must be in the hands of JFS staff no later than December 16.** Please deliver gifts to JFS, 222 E. Central Parkway or 237 William Howard Taft Road.
- ◆ Gifts should be unwrapped. Gift wrap paper and ribbons are also needed.
- ◆ Financial donations are appreciated. Please make your check payable to the Foster Child Enrichment Council, and send to P.O. Box 18283, Cincinnati, OH 45218. In the memo portion, write "Holiday Gifts." Your gift is tax deductible. **Checks must be received by December 12.**
- ◆ Warm PJs
- ◆ Coats, hats, gloves
- ◆ Twin-size quilts
- ◆ Clock radio/alarm clock
- ◆ Child's school backpack
- ◆ Art/craft supplies
- ◆ Books (picture and chapter)
- ◆ Gift certificates
- ◆ Hair ornaments
- ◆ Boom box
- ◆ Wooden puzzles
- ◆ Cars and trucks
- ◆ Baby dolls (e.g., African-American and other)
- ◆ Ride-on toys for toddlers
- ◆ Balls
- ◆ Board games for all ages
- ◆ Barbie dolls (diverse)
- ◆ Stuffed animals
- ◆ Stickers

New gifts only for ages birth to 19. Gifts for older children and teens are especially needed.

For more information, contact Laurie Petrie or Kathy Pflum at 946.2188.

Gift Ideas

- ◆ Baby clothes
- ◆ Umbrella strollers
- ◆ Toddler car seats



Department of Administrative Services' (DAS) Director, Eric Stuckey agreed to wear clown shoes and match the dollar amount if staff raised at least \$50 in their United Way spare change drive. DAS staff exceeded their goal and Eric delivered on his promise.

Hello, Hamilton County was there to capture the moment!

Performance Management Recognition

The International City-County Management Association Center for Performance Management recognized 22 cities and counties for their use of performance information in the management of their local government. Hamilton County was among those communities receiving the certificate of distinction.

As a county, we have made great strides in incorporating performance measurement into the management of our agencies. We report performance data to the public through budgets, newsletters and information provided to our Board of Commissioners. We are committed to coordinating, collecting and verifying performance data. Hamilton County uses the performance data in strategic planning for the county, and in making management decisions.



Pictured receiving Hamilton County's plaque are Eric Stuckey, Assistant County Administrator for Administrative Services and Peter Hames, Senior Executive Assistant County Administrator.

Public-Private Partnership Grants

Partnership between nonprofits and local governments has proven to be an effective avenue to providing community services. With shrinking budget allocations and a suffering economy, public-private partnerships are being encouraged.

The federal government offers many competitive programs for local governments and nonprofit organizations which benefit not only public agencies, but also the general public. Such benefits include decreasing the tax burden placed upon citizens who receive these valuable services.

Public-private partnerships are a concept that has existed for years, but is now more prevalent than ever. Collaborations between the two sectors are beneficial to everyone, including providers, stakeholders and the targeted populations, and increase the success rate of receiving grants.

When applying for grants, using a public-private partnership will provide multiple points of view that facilitate well-rounded and effective programs.

For more information about grants for public-private partnerships, contact Cindy Weitlauf, Hamilton County Grants Coordinator, 946.4317.



Jerome ~ born July 9, 1993
Iesha ~ born September 15, 1996

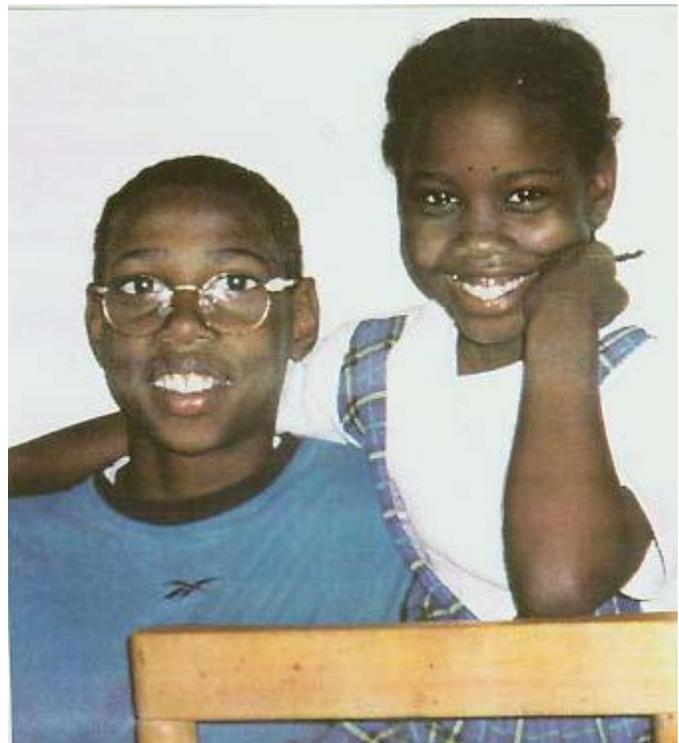
Jerome is a handsome young man with an engaging smile who tries hard to succeed in school and other activities. He enjoys playing basketball, playing with action figures, board games and watching movies.

Quiet and pleasant, Iesha is very courteous and respectful. Iesha likes watching movies, video games and playing with her dolls.

This brother and sister duo enjoy riding their bikes together, and they both like attending school.

Iesha and Jerome have other siblings that they wish to maintain a relationship with.

Thursday's Child For Information Call (513) 632-6366



25-Year Service Pins Awarded

Myra Jordan, C. Russell Sparks and Valerie Ward were each awarded 25-year service pins at the Board of Commissioners' December 5 meeting.

Myra Jordan began employment with Job and Family Services (JFS) on September 11, 1978, as a Homemaker for Adult Protective Services. Myra's main focus was to help disabled and elderly clients who could not do some basic functions in their homes, such as cooking, cleaning and getting to appointments. Myra continued to work diligently in this capacity until the agency hired all the homemakers as Family Aides. Ms. Jordan is a great asset to Hamilton County and has touched many lives in her time at JFS. Ms. Jordan was unable to attend the December 5 meeting.



(l-r) C. Russell Sparks, Commissioner Phil Heimlich

On September 18, 1978, C. Russell Sparks, "Russ," began employment with Hamilton County after earning a degree in Urban Planning and Design from the University of Cincinnati. Russ held a position as a Planner with the Regional Planning Commission until 1983, when he was appointed County Zoning Administrator. In 1996, Russ developed and implemented a zoning enforcement citation program that included the issuance of tickets for zoning violations.

Over the past 21 years, Russ has been involved in over 500 zoning amendment cases and has helped thousands of local citizens with zoning issues. He has been active in the local section of the Ohio Planning Conference and held the office of Treasurer for two terms. Russ is co-editor of the State of Ohio Planning Conference Newsletter and holds the office "State Trustee" of the American Planning Association.

On September 10, 1978, Valerie Ward began employment with Hamilton County at the Sunshine Group Home – the Allen House for teenage girls. After the Sunshine Group Home closed, Ms. Ward worked at Allen House's main facility as a Child Care Worker. She then became a Case Aide in July, 1987.

Currently, Ms. Ward works for Job and Family Services, Children's Services at the Alms and Doepke Building in the newly developed Visitation Center.

Ms. Ward's supervisor comments that she is a pleasure to work with, she is a hard worker and truly an asset to Hamilton County.

Thanks to Myra, Russ and Valerie for their dedicated service to Hamilton County.



(l-r) Valerie Ward, Commissioner Phil Heimlich

2004 Mobile Mammography Schedule

January 21, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM — JFS, 222 E. Central Pkwy
 January 23, 1:00 - 3:30 PM — River City Correctional Center, 3220 Colerain Ave
 January 27, 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM — Taft Building, 230 E. 9th Street
 January 29, 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM — County Administration Building, 138 E. Court
 February 4, 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM — JFS, 222 E. Central Pkwy
 February 11, 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM — JFS, 237 William Howard Taft Road

Contact Health Alliance Call Center, 686.3300 to schedule an appointment.

When scheduling, please have available:

- your full name
- your department
- insurance plan name
- date of birth
- desired appointment time and location
- name of physician to whom results should be mailed



New Weight Watchers Series

The third *Weight Watchers* "At Work" series has been fun, challenging and successful for participants, but will soon come to an end.

In preparation for the next "At Work" series, interested employees are invited to attend the final meeting of the current series on November 21, noon until 12:45 PM or 12:45 until 1:30 PM. At these sessions, those who are new to the program will have the opportunity to learn about the program, see how a regular weekly meeting is conducted and ask questions.

The cost is \$126 per 12-week series. A minimum of 15 employees is required to begin a series.

For more information contact Kim Pennekamp, 946.4705.

Cincinnati-Hamilton County Receive \$12.7 Million For Homeland Security Efforts

The Department of Homeland Security has granted to the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County \$12.7 million from the FY '04 budget for the Urban Area Security Initiative. Under the program guidelines, the allocation is made to help enhance the area's overall security and preparedness level to prevent, respond and recover from acts of terrorism. These funds will be made available specifically for urban areas, in addition to nearly \$8 million from the Department's Office for Domestic Preparedness, during FY '03 .

"The County's Terrorism Preparedness Advisory team has proven to be an innovative and effective forum for the cities, villages and townships, and critical disciplines to plan and work to increase home-

land security in the region," said David Krings, County Administrator.

Urban areas in receipt of the grants were chosen based on a formula that takes into account factors including critical infrastructure, population density, and credible threat information. The funding allocations to city, county and mutual aid partners were based, in part, on an urban area needs assessment and strategic plan. The money is in the form of grants through the state to the urban areas.

The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County will continue working together to develop a strategy for the money under the grant guidelines and conditions.

Officials from Cincinnati and Hamilton County have tentatively agreed that the FY '03 grant of nearly \$8 million will be used for equipment for security areas, such as surveillance, decontamination, emergency medical and mass casualty incident treatment, communications, emergency personnel protection, emergency command and control.

State and federal approval of these recommended areas is still needed before that money can be received.

Cincinnati-Hamilton County was one out of 50 urban areas named to receive the grant.

Cleveland and Columbus also will receive funds.

Hazardous Waste Collection



The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management district collected hazardous waste from over 6,000 cars at their free collection events held October 18 and 25 at Winton Woods High School and Coney Island. The majority of the materials brought to the event consisted of paints, solvents and pesticides. These were the largest collection events in Hamilton County's history.

Almost every home has 60 to 100 pounds of hazardous products stored in the basement, garage or under the sink. Hazardous products are dangerous to our health and the environment if stored or disposed of improperly. To find out if a product is hazardous, look at the label for key words such as *danger*, *poison*, *warning*, or *caution*.

For more information, visit www.hcdoes.org or call 946.7700.

"Got News?"
If you have county news for *Hello, Hamilton County*, send an email to Sharon Booker at sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org.
Next deadline: **November 24.**



Please remember to print and post *Hello, Hamilton County* in your areas so that everyone can see what's going on!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.

Hello, Hamilton County is published twice monthly on the County's web page. It is intended to inform both Hamilton County residents and staff. If you have questions or suggestions for future editions, please contact Sharon Booker (946.4428) or Peter Hames (946.4432) in the County Administrator's office. To subscribe or unsubscribe visit www.hamilton-co.org and click on the green "Newsletter" button.