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Newsletter of the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

Clark County Staff Receive Lesson on Poverty

Over a three-day period last October, the Department of Job & Family Services conducted a community poverty simulation exercise with over 250 staff and community partners. The simulation was created to help people understand the realities of living in poverty and was carried out as a follow-up to the Bridges Out of Poverty training that staff completed earlier this year.



During the simulation, participants role-played the lives of low-income families. Some were OWF families, some disabled, and some were senior citizens on Social Security. Each family had the stressful task of providing for basic necessities of food and shelter, which included getting to work and school on time, facing eviction, or having utilities turned off—all on a limited budget --during the course of four, 15-minute “weeks”.

Top and bottom photos • DJFS Director Robert Suver (left) was among the department staff and others who participated in the Bridges Out of Poverty exercise conducted earlier this year.

Participants interacted with human service agencies, grocers, employers, pawn brokers, bill collectors, law enforcement, and others. Although play money was used, the situations were real!



Participants left the simulation with a better understanding and appreciation of the reality for people who live in poverty.

V.I.T.A.



Available January 17 — April 11 2007

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Tax season is quickly approaching. The Clark County Department of Job and Family Services (CCDJFS) will again be offering a free tax service program called, **VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)**. Qualifying Clark County residents will receive free preparation of basic 1040A, and 1040EZ tax returns.

Certified tax training has been scheduled for the volunteer tax preparers who are currently being recruited. VITA is an IRS certified program, and volunteers will attend a seven-hour training session on tax law and basic tax preparation, plus the IRS will provide e-file training.

The VITA site is located at the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services WorkPlus Center, 1345 Lagonda Avenue, Springfield, 45503. Clark County residents are encouraged to call the VITA direct line, 937-327-1770, for a screening process. An appointment time will be given if the caller meets eligibility.

The site will begin operation on January 17, 2007, and continue through April 11, 2007. The hours of operation at the WorkPlus Center will be Monday and Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to Noon if needed.

In addition, the VITA site will educate the community about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). To qualify, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, (even if they do not earn enough money to file a tax return).

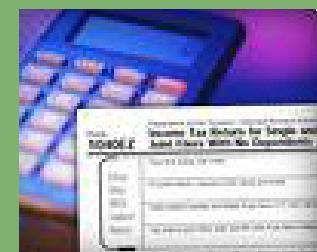
Earned Income Tax Credit earnings thresholds encompass the following:

- A) \$36,348 (\$38,348 *married filing jointly*) with two or more qualifying children
- B) \$32,001 (\$34,001 *married filing jointly*) with one qualifying child
- C) \$12,120 (\$14,120 *married filing jointly*) with no qualifying children

Maximum EITC credit:

- A) \$4,536 with two or more qualifying children
- B) \$2,747 with one qualifying child
- C) \$412 with no qualifying children

[Please click here to view the CCDJFS V.I.T.A. tax commercial.](#)



A quarterly look at the conditions and circumstances under which Clark County families live, and the performance of the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services in response.

THE QUARTERLY

Children under our protection who remain in their own homes

September 2003	September 2004
751	682
September 2005	September 2006
646	932

Children under county protection who are in custody

September 2003	September 2004
185	154
September 2005	September 2006
160	164

Individuals receiving food stamps

September 2003	September 2004
13,829	14,867
September 2005	September 2006
15,746	16,004

Individuals paying on child support orders

September 2003	September 2004
8,062	7,943
September 2005	September 2006
8,205	8,241

Children receiving subsidy for child care

September 2003	September 2004
782	734

Individuals receiving health insurance through Medicaid

September 2003	September 2004
23,894	24,892
September 2005	September 2006
25,732	25,508

September 2005	September 2006
1,004	1,055

Individuals receiving job training assistance

September 2003	September 2004
447	591
September 2005	September 2006
522	523

Families receiving ongoing cash assistance

September 2003	September 2004
734	640
September 2005	September 2006
691	589



Please congratulate the following employees who are celebrating their service anniversary with the department. An extra special congratulations goes to Sharen Carter, who is celebrating her 30th year in December 2006!

October

**Sarah Wiedeke – 5 years
Chad Lough – 15 years
Patricia Mosier – 15 years
Renee Southward – 15 years
Ginny Martycz – 15 years**

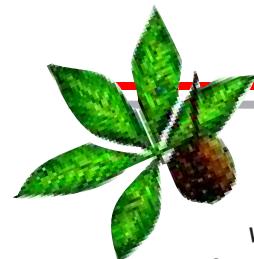
November

**Terri Chandler – 5 years
Lisa Martinez – 5 years
Sandy Wallingsford – 5 years
Alice Leach – 5 years**

December

**Vicki VanWinkle – 5 years
Lisa Weaver – 15 years
Wallace Brown – 15 years
Linda O’Neal – 20 years
Sharen Carter – 30 years**

Block O?



Buckeye fans at the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services took a back seat to nobody when it came to their enthusiasm and support for Ohio State in its game against Michigan

on November 18. College football experts generally credit department staff support for contributing to the Buckeyes victory.

**Ohio State 42
Michigan 39**



Youth Summit!

Springfield City middle school students, *Project Jericho*, and *The Champion City Scholars* attended a Youth Summit at Clark State Community College on December 1. The Summit, which was conceived by the Youth Council of the Clark County WorkPlus Board along with many other individuals, was a collaborative effort designed to give participants career exploration ideas.

The day began with a keynote speech by Clark State College professor Dee Garwood, who spoke about the importance of goal setting, and what it would take to accomplish future goals.

After the opening session, students played a lively game of "Simon Says" to warm up the day and recognize how important it is to



think before you act. *Exploration, Courage, and Tolerance* were the themes while the topics were discovered through hands-on and creative activities. Breakout sessions featured many exercises, such as learning to juggle, reciting tongue twisters, and learning how to communicate in a non-traditional way. The day was a great success, and the Clark County WorkPlus Center is proud to have been a part of it.

Members of the Clark County WorkPlus Board Youth Council

Chair- Pearl Cline
Tom Nash
Cathy Balas
Mustafaa Islam
Bob Mims
Andy Heims
Bill Hart
Paul Cornez



November is
National Adoption Month

Thank you Clark County

**... and all of the families
who have opened their
hearts and their homes by
adopting a child.**



**In 2005, the Family
and Children Services
Division of the Clark
County Department of Job and Family
Services finalized 27 adoptions and
provided adoption assistance to 313 children.**



Help us do more!

If you are interested in becoming
an Adoptive or Foster parent,
please contact us at
19371 327-1749
for more
information.



Our Community. Our Children.



[Please click here to view the entire Clark County media collection.](#)

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN

The Division of Family and Children Services marked National Adoption Month this year with this ad placed in the Sunday, November 12th edition of the Springfield News Sun. In addition, a new adoption public education brochure (below) for the Division is being developed.



[Please click here to view the CCDJFS foster care commercial.](#)

[Please click here to view the CCDJFS adoption commercial.](#)

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is a quarterly publication of the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

Forward this pdf. file as an attachment,
and encourage others to contact
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