

# e alert

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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.

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).

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.

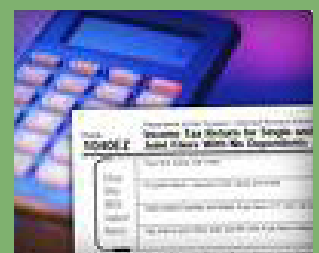
### ***Earned Income Tax Credit earnings thresholds encompass the following:***

- 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
September 2005	September 2006
1,004	1,055

## Individuals receiving health insurance through Medicaid

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

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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

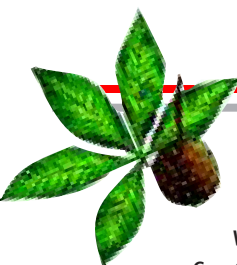
### November

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.*

<b>Ohio State</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>39</b>





# 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 **(937) 327-1749** for more information.



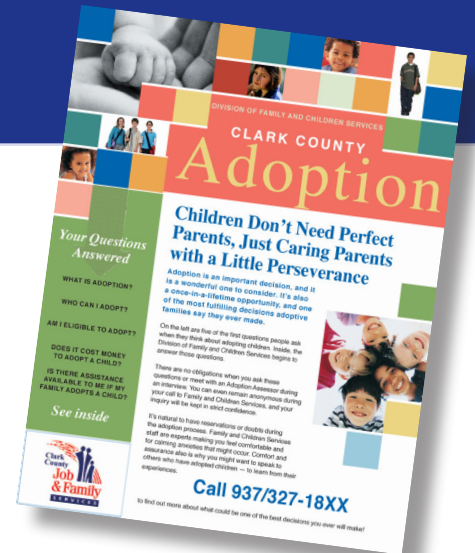
**Our Community. Our Children.**



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.

**e a l e r t**

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 Robin Maynard at 937/327-1859, or at [rmaynard@clarkdjfs.org](mailto:rmaynard@clarkdjfs.org)