



# Notable News

## Winter 2018

An exclusive publication for  
Mahoning County Foster Caregivers

### OUR MISSION

“Mahoning County Children Services,  
In partnership with the community, is  
committed to being the leader in protecting  
children while helping to preserve families”



**Mahoning County  
Children Services**  
330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)



**Mahoning County  
Children Services**



**MC Children Services**



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## FPA Officers

### President

Tammy Parteleno  
(330) 743-6718

### Editor

Valerie Johnson

# From the desk of the President

Greetings Families!

It's the most wonderful, busiest time of year! I hope this finds you all surviving it!

So thrilled to see you all recently when we purchased winter coats for the children. Thank you to those parents who were able to bring the kids out for a little shopping. If you have had recent placements and are in need of a winter coat, please contact me and we'll make arrangements to make that happen.

The FPA is working on Christmas gifts for the children. Please watch your emails for information and details on this shortly.

As always should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the information below.

During this holiday season take the time to soak in all those moments, good, bad or indifferent. It's what makes us families. Try to slow down, hug a little harder, longer. Forgive. Embrace and welcome all. Take lots of pictures!

On behalf of The Foster Parent's Association of Mahoning County, may all the children and your families have the most joyous and beautiful holiday.

May 2019 be filled with much love and happiness.

*Tammy Parteleno*

Cell phone number: 239-682-2534

Email: [partopar@peoplepc.com](mailto:partopar@peoplepc.com)

## FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Get Involved!

The Foster Parent Association of Mahoning County needs officers!

Please Contact: Tammy Parteleno, 239-682-2534

if you are interested in any of the following positions.

**Vice President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

SPOTLIGHT

Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Forever Families



Logan  
Born February 2010

Logan is a 8 year old who loves attention and positive affirmations. He is very smart, active, and enjoys playing outside.

This little guy has high hopes of getting a power wheel for his birthday.

His favorite T.V. programs are the Power Rangers, TMNT and Pokémon. Logan likes to build with Legos and is very inquisitive and curious.

He would do best in a home where he is the youngest or only child.

If you are interested in providing permanency for this child,  
please have your worker contact:

Sarah Pinciario | Phone: 330.941.8888 | Fax: 330.941.8787 | Email: Sarah.Pinciario@jfs.ohio.gov

AGENCY NEWS

Board Bills

Board Bills are due the 7th of every month. Remember these should be done electronically. Please email Kathy Thomas: Kathy.Thomas@jfs.ohio.gov if you haven’t already gotten set up!

Emergency List

We are in desperate need of Emergency Homes for children ages 0 to 18! Please consider being on the Emergency List! For more information contact Lori Robinette at (330) 941-8888 or Lorraine.Robinette@jfs.ohio.gov.

## RULE REVIEW

### Rule 5101:2-7-14 Required Notification

- Caregiver(s) shall notify the agency in writing prior to allowing any person or child (including birth of a child) to take up residence
- Caregiver(s) shall notify agency in event of financial hardships
- Caregiver(s) shall notify the agency within one hour in any of the following circumstances involving the foster child (agency requires immediate notification following appropriate emergency services):  
Serious injury or illness, involving medical treatment of an adoptive/foster child; death of a child or household member; extended and/or unauthorized absence; removal or attempts of removal of the foster child by any person or agency other than the placing agency’ any involvement of a foster child with law enforcement.
- Caregiver(s) shall notify the agency within 24 hours in any type of the following circumstances involving the foster child (agency requires immediate notification following appropriate emergency services):  
Any fire that requires the services of the fire department; if home becomes uninhabitable; change in marital status; any serious illness or death in the household’ any criminal charges/convictions against caregiver or resident of the home.
- A foster caregiver shall inform the recommending agency at least four weeks prior to a planned move of the foster caregiver.

## REMINDER FOR CLOTHING FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

- Licensing workers are responsible for monitoring clothing of children in foster care.
- Foster parent(s) should complete the Clothing Inventory Form monthly (record monthly clothing purchases) and submit the completed form to their licensing worker every 90 days to verify the minimum required dollar amount is spent monthly for a foster child’s clothing.
  - A. \$1.75/day for foster children ages 0-12
  - B. \$2.00/day for foster children ages 13-18

This amount is already built into the child’s per diem rate. It is not an “extra” reimbursement or issued on vouchers

- All receipts of clothing purchased for the child must be attached to the form to be reviewed by your licensing worker. \*(See Appendix 5-E of the FP manual).
- The licensing worker will use the clothing inventory form with receipts to verify the needed items were purchased during their monthly home visit. Licensing workers will complete a periodic check of the child’s clothing in your home to ensure enough appropriate clothing is being purchased and to verify the condition of the clothes for foster children in the care of MCCS.

## WELCOME NEW FOSTER PARENTS

**William and Christina Vass—September 18, 2018**  
**Eugene and Myrna Tripp—September 18, 2018**  
**Jacquelyne Clark—September 28, 2018**  
**Joshua and Stephanie Foster—October 19, 2018**  
**Joshua and Tara Bishop—November 5, 2018**

AGENCY POLICY

Mileage

- Mileage needs to be turned in electronically on the agency approved form by the 7th day of the following month. Each section needs to be filled in correctly including foster parent’s signature and up to date information.
- Mileage recorded needs to be accurate no rounding up. Please refer to MapQuest when recording mileage (shortest distance) because this is what is used when mileage is being audited for accuracy.
- Only record one destination per line on the mileage form using addresses not names of locations:

A.	2801 Market St. to 222 W. Federal St.	2.3
	222 W. Federal St. to 2801 Market St.	2.3
B.	222 W. Federal St. to 660 W. Earle	2.7
	660 W. Earle to 330 E. Scott Street.	3.7
	330 E. Scott St. to 222 W. Federal St.	1.2
- Receipts need to be submitted for reimbursement for parking and tolls.

EMERGENCY LIST REMINDERS

**Important things to remember when you are on the Emergency List or are considering becoming an Emergency Placement:**

- ◆ Must answer the phone or return call to the agency representatives
- ◆ Must notify agency immediately if you are not able to continue to be on the Emergency Placement List
- ◆ Must take children sight unseen. A gentle reminder that when you are on emergency, take whatever steps you feel necessary to be sure you hear your phone all times day and night. While we realize everyone is busy, it is important to know that we are trying to get a child to the safest placement as quickly as possible and by not answering the phone or by saying “no”, you are impeding the placement of a child.
- ◆ Placements are often made in the dark. Be sure your house is well lit and marked to make it easier for workers to find.
- ◆ Reimbursement for an emergency placement is \$60 per day for the first 30 days, then it goes to a regular rate.
- ◆ Have car seats and beds available for children you are agreeing to accept on emergency.

SHOUT OUTS

**Congratulations to the following families whom are in the process of adoption finalization**

<b>Lisa and Gary Bartek</b>	<b>Cheryl and Stuart Bauman</b>
<b>Stephanie and Andrew Huddleston</b>	<b>Georgia and Brandon Kirby</b>

**There is no time more fitting to say thank you for opening your heart and home to the children of Mahoning County. Here’s wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

CHRISTMAS IS COMING



The expenditure policy for purchasing Christmas Gifts for the foster children in your home is you may spend up to \$50.00 for all foster children in your home **UNDER** the age of one (1) and up to \$100.00 for all foster children in your home age 1-18! The agency will allow you to shop wherever you would like for the Christmas gifts and *you will be reimbursed* through your Board Bill.

Once you have purchased all the Christmas Gifts for each foster child in your home, *you may turn in your receipts to your Licensing Worker for reimbursement.* For auditing purposes, you will need to purchase each child’s Christmas Gifts on a separate receipt. Please make sure you write on your receipt the name of the foster child for whom the Christmas gifts were purchased.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please talk to your Licensing Workers! Thank you!

TICKETS 4 KIDS

Tickets for Kids Charities is a non- profit charitable organization. Their mission is to allow for low-income and at-risk children access to arts and culture, sports, recreation and family entertainment. TFK partners with other nonprofit organizations who serve disadvantaged kids and families to obtain tickets to various events. In 2016, they distributed more than 160,00 tickets valued at \$5 million dollars in 41 states. Please talk with your licensing worker about opportunities for tickets to use with the children in your home.

CPR / FIRST AID TRAINING

CPR/FIRST AID Requirement

Remember to register for adult/infant/child CPR and First Aid once every recertification period.  
This is a COA requirement for your foster care license.

The necessary classes required for your foster care license are offered at Thomas Trainers. You may access these classes online at <http://thomastrainers.com> or contact your licensing worker for more information.

Thomas Trainers January Schedule:

January 8, 2019	9:00am	CPR	January 9, 2019	5:00pm	First Aid
January 12, 2019	11:00am	CPR	January 15, 2019	9:00am	First Aid
January 22, 2019	9:00am	CPR	January 26, 2019	11:00am	CPR

# IN MEMORIAM

## PHILIP MURPHY



It is with great sadness that Mahoning County Children Services announces former supervisor, Philip Murphy passed away on November 9, 2018.

Philip started his career at Children Services as a youth leader at the group home from 1983-1985. He was promoted to Group Home Coordinator from 1985-1988. He was committed to the children and enjoyed his work. After his promotion to supervisor in 1988, he often gave money to his predecessor to take the children on outings, never wanting recognition or reimbursement for it.

Philip was promoted to the position of Family Services Supervisor from 1988-2001. While in that position, he participated in the School Liaison Program and the Northside Project. He was on the CASA Board from 1996 to 2002. He was also on the Board for Addiction Programs of Mahoning County.

Philip taught Lunchtime Learning trainings at Children Services, and had a clever English column featured in the agency newsletter. Philip also enjoyed creating CSB themed crossword puzzles that he proudly distributed to his eager, devout CSB following for their Thursday Puzzle lunches. He went on to have many non-CSB crossword puzzles published. He participated in Community Cups over the years, and was fierce in the Basketball and Tug of War events. He also played on the CSB softball league.

Philip was Supervisor of the Abuse Unit from 2001 until his retirement in 2013, after thirty years of service.

Philip graduated from Struthers High School in 1978. He was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2000 for outstanding basketball achievements.

Philip graduated from Allegheny College in 1982. He was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1994 for outstanding basketball achievements. He obtained a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters Degree in English. He was also an English professor at YSU and taught at Kent State Salem branch and online.

Philip married Zia Cochran in 2012 and also leaves his young daughter, Miah.

Philip touched many lives in his lifetime. He enjoyed and cared about the families served and his colleagues. At times, he challenged policies and administration, for which he had the admiration of his workers, and the disgruntlement of the administration.

His former colleagues describe him as patient, understanding, respectful of his workers, great boss, great friend, funny and smart. He leaves an amazing legacy. With so many accomplishments in his short life, it should inspire us to do our best and to give accolades when they are due.

## IMPORTANT ONGOING TRAINING INFORMATION

Training is very important to ongoing foster parents. Because of this, the agency strives to bring you as many relevant and informative trainings as possible. Our training schedule is set by the regional offices and the expectation is that we will have at least 8 participants at every training.

All ongoing training sessions for the fall session will be from 5:30—8:30pm. In the winter months, please be aware of the weather forecast and contact the foster parent liaison, Valerie Johnson @ (330) 941-8858 if you aren't sure if the class will be canceled.

Please park in the garage and use the second set of glass doors. Look for the Training on the 3rd Floor signs and follow them to the training room. Reminder that sometimes it can be chilly in the training room so you may want to bring a sweater or sweatshirt. Please dress comfortably.

As always, refreshments will be served.

## TRAINING REMINDER

**Please make sure that when you attend a training to sign in and name the agency/county where you are from, otherwise, you may not get credit**

***REMINDER PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN TO TRAININGS***

You can earn up to 3 credit hours for reading a book; however; you must contact your licensing worker for a book review outline that is required for training credit. You can also earn 3 training hours by watching *Despicable Me*, *Juno*, *Like Dandelion Dust* or *Meet the Robinsons* and completing the movie guide. You can contact your licensing worker about getting the movie guide. Movies can be rented from your local video store, Redbox, Netflix or your local library.

**SIPS** ask your licensing worker for SIPS.

These are supplements to help with completion of a minimal amount of training hours.

Each SIPS can only be completed once.

Online addresses: [www.fosterparentcollege.com](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com), [www.fosterparent.com](http://www.fosterparent.com) and [www.fosterclub.com](http://www.fosterclub.com).

Webinars are also a great way to get your hours. Akron Children's Hospital offers many informative webinars regarding children's health issues. Please note that you can earn up to 12 hours in a 2 year time frame by reading a book, watching a movie, doing SIPS, or going online.

# Trainings

Please remember that your 40 hours of ongoing training is due *no later than 30 days* prior to your license expiration date.

MAHONING COUNTY			
All trainings will be held at the Mahoning County Children Services’ building at 222 W. Federal St., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Youngstown, OH 44503. You can register through E-track at <a href="https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp">https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp</a> or by calling your licensing worker. To show our appreciation, light snacks and beverages will be provided from the agency at our trainings.			
<b>Monday, December 17</b> <b>5:30—8:30 p.m.</b>	943-28 Human Trafficking Basics for Caregivers  <b>Caution: Graphic subject matter will be discussed and displayed.</b>  Presented by Tanisha Knighton	<b>Monday, January 7</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	922-22 Essentials of Team Building: Remembering the Titans—Principles and Practices  Presented by John Ward
<b>Wednesday, January 23</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	995-49 Caution, Stop and Yield: Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Disorders in Children and Adolescents  Presented by Kathleen Terry	<b>Monday, February 11</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	950-4 Your Day in Court  Presented by Christina Rosebrough-Zody
<b>Monday, February 25</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	988-16 It’s Not the Brady Bunch: Family Effects of Addiction  Presented by Brian Bethel	<b>Saturday, March 2</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b>	926-3 The Art of Listening and Confronting Conflict for Foster Caregivers  Presented by John Ward
<b>Wednesday, March 20</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	951-7 Mentoring Among Foster Caregivers: Strengthening the Team	<b>Saturday, April 13</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b>	991-34 Becoming a Trauma Competent Caregiver (Part 1)  Presented by Ann Bagley
<b>Wednesday, April 17</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	981-12 Discrimination of American Foster Children  Presented by Cindy Wallis		

COLUMBIANA COUNTY			
All trainings will be held at Columbiana County Job and Family Services, Government Service Center: 7989 Dickey Dr., Lisbon, Ohio 44432. You can register through E-track at <a href="https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp">https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp</a> or by calling your licensing worker.			
<b>Thursday, December 20</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	995-49 Caution, Stop and Yield: Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Disorders in Children and Adolescents  Presented by Kathleen Terry	<b>Thursday, January 17</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	989-59 Taking Care of the Caregiver: Grieving  Presented by Beth Philley
<b>Thursday, February 7</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	983-28 Eight Simple Rules for Helping Your Child with Autism  Presented by Kathleen Terry	<b>Thursday, February 21</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	988-5 Substance Use and Abuse Among Children and Teens  Presented by Stacy Simera
<b>Thursday, March 7</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	988-20 Before You Take that First Drink (or Smoke): Preventing Substance Abuse Problems in Children  Presented by Kathleen Terry	<b>Thursday, February 7</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	989-65 Understanding and Managing the Stress of Caregiving  Presented by Karen Vadino

<div>TRUMBULL COUNTY</div> <div>All trainings will be held at 2282 Reeves Rd., N.E., Warren, OH 44481. You can register through E-Track at <a href="https://e-track.teds.com/Everyone/TEDSEveryOne.jsp">https://e-track.teds.com/Everyone/TEDSEveryOne.jsp</a> or contact your licensing worker.</div>			
<div>Wednesday, December 12</div> <div>6:00 — 9:00 p.m.</div> <div>AND</div> <div>Thursday, December 13</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>946-5 Pediatric HeartSaver First Aid—American Heart Association</div> <div>MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS</div> <div>Limited to 9 participants</div> <div>Presented by Ronna Johnson</div>	<div>Wednesday, December 19</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>994-3 Educational Advocacy: Supporting Your Child’s Success at School</div> <div>Presented by Ronna Johnson</div>
<div>Monday, January 14</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>924-31 Working with Kids Who Have Experienced Loss</div> <div>Presented by Sister Madeleine Rybicki</div>	<div>Monday, January 28</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>980-17 Can We Talk? Improving Communication Skills</div> <div>Presented by Beth Philley</div>
<div>Wednesday, February 6</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>925-94 Dynamic Discipline for Kids in Care</div> <div>Presented by Anthony President</div>	<div>Wednesday, February 13</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>925-130 Maximizing Honesty and Honest Behaviors in Foster Children</div> <div>Presented by Brian Lowery</div>
<div>Saturday, February 23</div> <div>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</div>	<div>951-2 Pro-Social Skills</div> <div>Presented by David Zidar</div>	<div>Saturday, March 9</div> <div>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</div>	<div>949-60 Sibling Relationships in Foster Care: Keeping Them Connected</div>
<div>Monday, March 11</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>925-135 Helping Foster Parents Avoid Common Parenting Traps: Steering Clear of the Quicksand</div> <div>Presented by John Ward</div>	<div>Thursday, March 21</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>990-21 Zzz’s to A’s: Supporting Sleep for Better Functioning</div> <div>Presented by Stacey Simera</div>
<div>Saturday, April 13</div> <div>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</div>	<div>923-FF6-S Recognizing and Responding to Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused</div> <div>Presented by Kathleen Terry</div>	<div>Monday, April 15</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>949-56 Family Search and Engagement: What Every Foster Parent Should Know</div> <div>Presented by Kathleen Terry</div>
<div>Thursday, April 18</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>947-7 The Difference: What Makes Foster Families Effective</div> <div>Presented by Paula Kyle-Stephens</div>		

<div>SUMMIT COUNTY</div> <div>All trainings will be held at the Education Center at 264 S. Arlington St., Akron, OH 44306. You can register through E-track at <a href="https://e-track.teds.com/Everyone/TEDSEveryOne.jsp">https://e-track.teds.com/Everyone/TEDSEveryOne.jsp</a> or by calling your licensing worker.</div>			
<div>Wednesday, January 9</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>989-67 Understanding and Surviving Grief and Loss While Fostering: The Emotional Roller Coaster—NEW</div> <div>Presented by Deanna Prezioso</div>	<div>Tuesday, January 15</div> <div>6:00 — 9:00 p.m.</div> <div>AND</div> <div>Thursday, January 17</div> <div>6:00—9:00 p.m.</div>	<div>946-5 Pediatric HeartSaver First Aid—American Heart Association</div> <div>MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS</div> <div>Limited to 9 participants</div> <div>Presented by Ronna Johnson</div>

<p><b>Thursday, January 24</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>202-92 Adolescent Development and Culture—NEW Joint FP/Staff Training Presented by Seanine Cook</p>	<p><b>Saturday, January 26</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>926-FF9-S Foster Families and How They Grow: Understanding the Effects of Fostering  Presented by Trisha Martinek</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, January 29</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>951-8 Mentoring Among Foster Caregivers—Strengthening the Team Joint FP/Staff Training Presented by Deanna Prezioso</p>	<p><b>Thursday, January 31</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>941-28 Independent Living Issues for Caregivers  Presented by Bert Nero</p>
<p><b>Saturday, February 2</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>946-5 Pediatric HeartSaver First Aid—American Heart Association  Presented by Ronna Johnson  Limited to 9 Participants</p>	<p><b>Saturday, February 9</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>952-5 Preventing Foster Care and Adoption Disruptions  Presented by Jim Still-Pepper</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, February 13</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>983-8 Extraordinary Parenting! Caring for Children with Specialized Health and Development Needs  Presented by Ronna Johnson</p>	<p><b>Thursday, February 28</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>985-2 My Foster Child is Gay! Help!  Presented by Pam Reid</p>
<p><b>Monday, March 4</b> <b>6:00 — 9:00 p.m.</b>  <b>AND</b> <b>Wednesday, March 6</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>946-5 Pediatric HeartSaver First Aid—American Heart Association  <b>MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS</b> <b>Limited to 9 participants</b>  Presented by Ronna Johnson</p>	<p><b>Saturday, March 9</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>925-132 Review of the Foster-Adoptive Parent Toolshop: the Universal Blueprint  Presented by Jody Johnston-Pawel</p>
<p><b>Monday, March 11</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>984-9 Gun Violence and Youth: Burners, Gats, and Straps  Presented by Anthony President</p>	<p><b>Saturday, March 23</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>925-FF8-S Discipline in Foster Care: Managing Our Behavior to Manage Theirs  Presented by David Zidar</p>
<p><b>Monday, March 25</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>923-40 Helping Children with Self-Esteem  Presented by Sister Madeleine Rybicki</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, April 10</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>925-102 Discipling Your Children Without Punishing Yourself  Presented by Beth Philley</p>
<p><b>Thursday, April 18</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>923-FF1-S Child Development Fundamentals  Presented by Beth Cardina</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 23</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>988-23 Sobering Thoughts: Substance Abuse in Adolescence  Presented by Brian Bethel</p>
<p><b>Saturday, April 27</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>946-5 Pediatric HeartSaver First Aid—American Heart Association  Presented by Ronna Johnson  Limited to 9 Participants</p>		

# NEWS RELEASE



Mahoning County  
**Children Services**  
330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)

**CONTACT:** Jennifer T. Kollar  
Public Information Officer  
**PHONE:** 330.941.8810  
**EMAIL:** [Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 23, 2018**

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## Adoption Day Event Celebrates “The Many Faces of Adoption”

[YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO] – November marks *National Adoption Awareness Month*. Each year courts, child welfare agencies and community partners join together on one day to do something AMAZING—create forever families!

*National Adoption Day* is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than **117,000** children across the nation who are waiting in foster care for an adoptive family. This one day offers communities the opportunity to finalize adoptions, celebrate adoptive families and find homes for children in foster care.

In support of the month, together, Mahoning County Probate Court and Mahoning County Children Services are co-hosting the *Fifth Annual Adoption Day Celebration Event*. The community is cordially invited to this public event slated on:

**Wednesday, November 1,  
2018 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.  
Mahoning County Courthouse Rotunda**

The Adoption Day Celebration will feature two child Adoption Finalizations, the East High School Junior ROTC Color Guard, and a few “furry and adoptable” animals from Angels for Animals.

**Local Waiting Children:** In Ohio, adoption services are provided by public children services agencies like Mahoning County Children Services. Currently, Mahoning County Children Services has **38** children in the permanent custody of the agency. Of the 38 children, the agency has identified adoptive families for **23** children. However, there are **15** children with NO identified family! The majority of Mahoning County waiting children are teens over the age of 15. Learn more about Mahoning County Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Families: [www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/](http://www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/)

“This is our opportunity to bring attention to the hundreds of local children in foster care and to make a difference in the lives of these children. If we can connect one child with an adoptive family with this event, it’s a success,” states Judge Robert N. Rusu, Jr., Mahoning County Probate Court.

**National Stats:** Children in foster care will spend at least three birthdays waiting for their forever families and the longer children are in foster care, the more at risk they are of growing up in care and leaving without getting adopted. Each year, over 20,000 children (over 1,000 in Ohio alone) emancipate out of foster care at 18 years old without a permanent family or home.

“Mahoning County Children Services is in immediate and great need of foster homes for youth 12-18 years of age and foster caregivers who are able to accommodate sibling groups. At any given time, the Agency has 150-175 children in foster care and that number is rising. “Our goal is to decrease the number of children waiting for adoptive families and identify and recruit new adoptive and foster homes.” explains Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer, Mahoning County Children Services.

**Learn more about Mahoning County Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Families:** [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)  
**Mahoning County Children Services:** 330.941.8888  
**Mahoning County Probate Court:** 330.740.2310