



August 2008

ODJFS Budget Cuts Will Impact Counties

On September 10th, Governor Strickland announced \$540 million in budget cuts to address significant shortfalls in the state budget. This is the second major budget reduction in the past 12 months. In February, the Governor ordered ODJFS to reduce their biennium budget by \$67 million. ODJFS is receiving the biggest cut in this most recent budget announcement, with the agency needing to shave \$79.9 million in GRF.

The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services has announced preliminary budget cuts, which include reductions to counties in all GRF line items by 4.75%. The following are the preliminary numbers for affected county line items:

County Line Item	Amount Cut (in millions)
TANF State Funds	12.7 Million
Child Care	3.9 Million
Child Support	1.4 Million
Medicaid Administration	6.1 Million
Child Protection	3.7 Million
Adoption Assistance	4.4 Million

These numbers remain preliminary until the end of September. ODJFS is expected to make an official announcement at that time.

It should be noted, this is a second round of deep cuts impacting child support, and that for every state GRF dollar reduced in the child support program, two additional federal dollars are forfeited. In the first round of cuts in February, child support received a \$3.4 million cut, which went into effect this fiscal year. With this second cut of \$1.4 million, child support cuts total \$4.8 million.

Counties also received a 13% reduction to Medicaid Administration for this biennium budget, which went into effect July 1, 2007.

These substantial reductions in state revenue to counties come at a time when demand for services has dramatically increased in Fairfield County in every program area. Agency leadership officials have begun analyzing the impact of these cuts on local programming and service delivery. A meeting will be scheduled with the Board of Commissioners in October to discuss available options.

There is no question that these additional budget cuts will significantly impede the ability of agency caseworkers and staff to achieve statutorily required performance standards and time frames. More importantly, supportive services intended to assist individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency, will be further curtailed, resulting in an increase in the number of families seeking public assistance cash benefits (OWF).

After nearly a decade of success moving families out of poverty and off of public assistance since **Welfare Reform** began in 1996, working families are returning to the welfare rolls in large numbers. The poorest and most vulnerable residents of our community will clearly suffer as a result of current economic conditions, and the further loss of state revenue to provide supportive services (PRC, Child Care, Child Support, Medicaid) and emergency assistance.

Much more to come on this important topic in the weeks and months ahead.





JFS Vision Statement

JFS, through state and local partnerships, will be Ohio's premier family support and workforce development system, contributing to skilled, safe, healthy Fairfield Countians, successful businesses and a strong community.

JFS Mission Statement

Through a spirit of community cooperation, the mission of Fairfield County Job and Family Services is to provide services that encourage productivity, develop competencies, ensure accountability, and promote self-reliance, family stability, and child safety.

JFS Strategic Goal Areas:

1. FCJFS will responsibly obtain, maximize, and allocate financial resources according to agency priorities.
2. FCJFS will value and respect employees as our greatest asset.
3. FCJFS will provide exceptional public service to the community.
4. FCJFS will demonstrate, inspire, and empower leadership.
5. FCJFS will continue to improve and measure performance in all areas, utilizing technology and available resources.
6. FCJFS will initiate, promote, and enhance community and inter-governmental relationships to further our mission.

15 Months and Counting

While the **Citizens to Protect Children and Elderly from Abuse and Neglect** committee and hundreds of community volunteers worked very hard last winter to pass a **new protective services levy** in Fairfield County, revenue from the levy is not collected and disbursed until January 2010.



In the meantime, abuse and neglect referrals involving children and the elderly are at an all-time high in 2008. Agency officials remain committed to investigating the most serious and life-threatening reports we receive, but will continue to be unable to provide the enhanced services needed until additional human and financial resources become available.

We appreciate the continued patience and understanding of our dedicated caseworkers and support staff, stakeholders and community partners, and of course, the elderly, children, and families we serve.

**CUSTOMER COUNT SUMMARY
FRONT DESK WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS**

2008	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Administration	55	50	55	92	74	60	47	61
Adult Protective Services	21	7	4	11	16	5	15	16
Adult Services	702	639	666	659	630	676	719	755
Child Care	71	88	50	98	69	86	67	116
Community Services	3362	2241	2445	2588	2462	2597	2673	2658
Com Serv – Help Desk	145	453	564	629	748	711	839	761
Com Serv – Receipts Only	105	370	372	464	417	405	407	386
Child Protective Services	594	447	529	630	609	652	767	679
Child Support	693	605	591	672	718	624	604	688
Partner	321	260	380	389	336	304	311	273
Visitation	14	18	6	11	48	49	20	56
WorkNet	2152	1529	1959	1830	1537	1674	1971	2058
TOTALS	8235	6707	7621	8073	7664	7843	8440	8507

The Community Services caseload for September 2008 is 6,013 open cases. This includes Healthy Start/Healthy Families, Food Stamps, and Ohio Works First.

In August, there were 291 scheduled intakes; 232 customers attended intake appointments, (families who do not currently have an open case requesting assistance).

Help Desk staff answered 977 requests from families in the month of August. Of those contacts, 791 were walk-in customers and 186 were phone contacts.

Food Stamp cases totaled 3,054 open cases in Community Services.

The number of open Food Stamp cases is the highest caseload in more than five years.

Families receiving only Medicaid benefits such as Healthy Start, Healthy Families, or Transitional Medicaid total 1,910 open cases in August. The majority of these families have employment in the household.

There were 24 fraud referrals for the month of August.

The average caseload for Eligibility Referrals Specialists during August was 334 cases

In August, 589 families are receiving Ohio Works First (ongoing cash assistance). Many of these cash assistance cases are children involved with Child Protective Services and are residing with grandparents or other relatives.

Community Services Staff Experience Record Number of Requests From Families

Due to the widespread power outages reported across the state, Food Stamp regulations permit the replacement of food stamps if the family lost food due to a disaster. Families in receipt of Food Stamps for September and who lost food due to the power outage completed an application requesting replacement of the Food Stamp benefits.

Job and Family Services staff met this significant increase in demand for services on September 17th through September 23rd. On an average, approximately 350 people enter the agency each day. Following the power outage, we averaged 900 customers a day. In addition, phone calls to the Community Services Department increased dramatically as detailed in the chart

Date	Number of calls for Community Services Staff
Tuesday, 9/16	505
Wednesday, 9/17	910
Thursday, 9/18	895
Friday, 9/19	649

Community Services staff issued replacement Food Stamps to 1,360 Community Services families totaling more than \$250,000. The replacement of Food Stamps for families impacted by the power outage ended on September 25, 2008.

High Winds Assistance Program

Effective September 15, 2008, Governor Strickland declared Fairfield County a state of emergency for all 88 counties. With this declaration, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has issued funding to Fairfield County Job and Family Services to assist families, elderly, and disabled adults with damages or loss related to the high winds on September 14, 2008. Each county was allocated \$55,00 in TANF funds to provide disaster assistance to eligible families and \$11,00 in non-TANF funds to serve eligible elderly or disabled individuals impacted by the storm.

In order to qualify for this assistance, the household income must fall below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Please see chart below. Households must also consist of an individual over the age of 55, an individual who is disabled, or a family with minor children in the household.

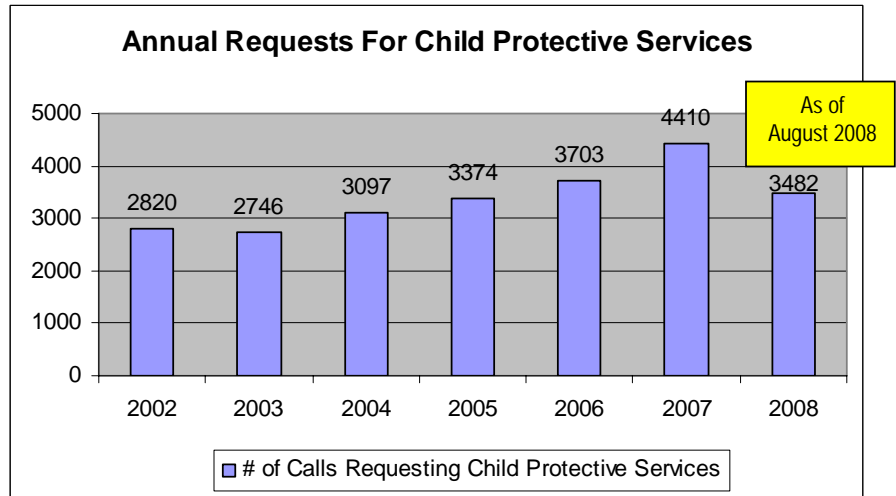
Number of individuals residing in home	Gross Income Past 30 Days
1	\$1734
2	\$2334
3	\$2934
4	\$3534

Fairfield County Job and Family Services staff worked closely with Red Cross, EMA, and other community agencies to identify affected families. As of September 23rd, 55 non-TANF families were assisted and 245 TANF families or families with children were assisted through the High Winds Assistance program.

In July, the Transportation Team provided 5,788 one-way trips through the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation Program and through TANF funding. A total of 3,340 one-way trips utilizing gas vouchers were issued through these programs. There were 493 one-way trips provided by JFS drivers, and 1,176 one-way trips provided through contract agencies such as: Lancaster Public Transit, Functional Training Services, Center for Disabilities, Coach Transportation, and Salvation Army. Families involved with Child Protective Services were provided 776 one-way trips; 294 gas vouchers, 140 through contract agencies, and 342 one-way trips utilizing JFS drivers.

Child Abuse And Neglect Repots On The Rise

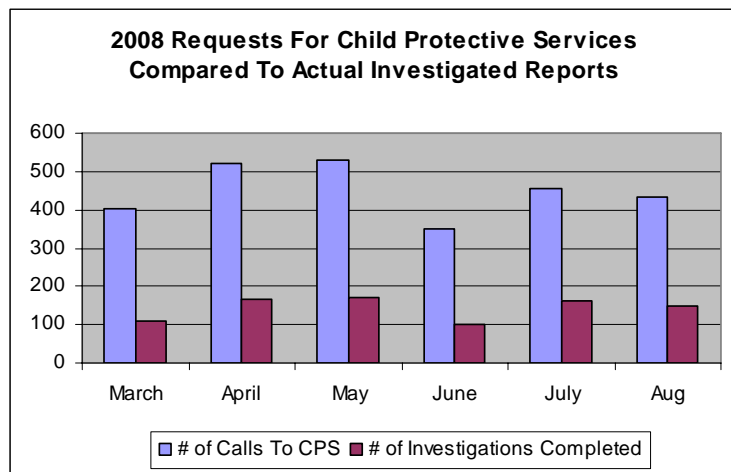
By the end of September, CPS will have received more calls regarding abused and neglected children than any previous year with the exception of 2007. However, with an average of 435 calls per month, CPS is on pace to receive more than 5,100 child abuse and neglect calls during the 2008 calendar year, surpassing the



2007 numbers. While CPS continues to wait for the 2010 levy dollars to supply a sufficient number of staff necessary to respond to the ever increasing demand for service, many calls for help are not receiving investigative services. Even though the department continues to investigate more calls than ever before, more than 70% of all calls do not receive an investigation or assessment. Therefore, the CPS department must intensely analyze each call to determine if it is a life or death situation. As the prevalence of drug issues, domestic violence, and homelessness increases, this is becoming quite a daunting task.

Increased Calls To CPS Representing More Children In Need Of Protection

Increased calls to Fairfield County Child Protective Services is resulting in more situations requiring investigations. The ongoing challenge facing the CPS Department is how to assure safety and protection to so many vulnerable children with insufficient staffing levels available to respond. While the department continues to heavily scrutinize all calls received, the severity of cases being reported to CPS demands a response.



With the number of caseworkers remaining unchanged for several years and an increasing number of hurting children needing protection, caseloads are at an all time high. During the first quarter of 2008, CPS investigated an average of 25% of all calls. In the second quarter that number grew to 30%. So far in the months of July and August, we have investigated 35% of all calls received. The reality is that we may not be able to wait until 2010 for help associated with levy funding.

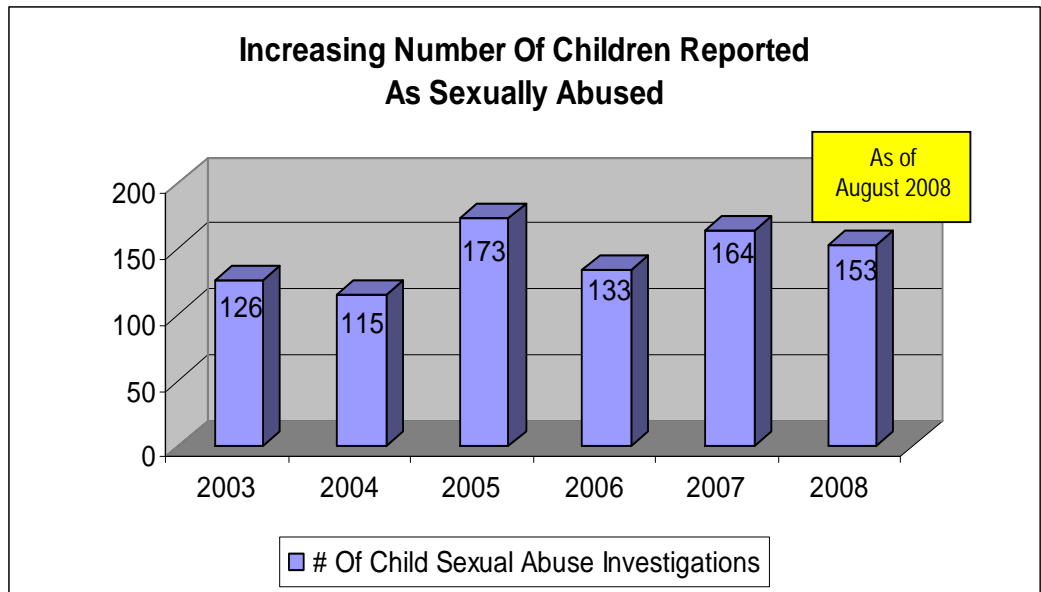
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Sexual Victimization Of Children Continues To Increase

To gain a better understanding of the serious nature and type of child abuse the CPS department is dealing with on a daily basis, one can look to the issue of sexual abuse. Not only are these children victimized in the most horrible way imaginable, they will have to endure years of physical and psychological therapy to try and recover from surviving such appalling events at their young age. The CPS department investigates an average of 20 sexual abuse reports each month. With numbers increasing this rapidly, we are extremely thankful for the Fairfield County Child Advocacy Center (CAC). While the CAC goes a long way in investigating, assessing and treating victims of sexual abuse, they are equally important in creating a safer community so other children do not fall victim to predators existing in our county.



Cash Medical Support Orders

Effective July 21, 2008, all new child support orders must contain cash medical support orders as well. Cash medical orders provide a dollar amount to be paid during periods of time when the child(ren) are not covered by a health insurance plan.

The addition of cash medical orders has had a significant impact on the workload for the CSEA and Court System. The amounts of the orders have to be calculated using required guidelines and then the CSEA is responsible for tracking and enforcing compliance of the new orders.

CSEA Staff Active at OCDA Conference

The Ohio Child Support Directors Association (OCDA) recently held their Fall Conference in Columbus. The semi-annual event gives CSEA staff the opportunity to network with colleagues at both the county and state level. Training sessions are conducted on a wide variety of topics relevant to child support professionals.

At this year's event, five Fairfield County staff members conducted four separate sessions. This was more than any other county in Ohio. The sessions led by Fairfield County were as follows:

- **Negotiation and Settlement of Cases** – Attorney Patrick Welsh and Magistrate Sandy Miller
- **Case Stratification** – CSEA Director Corey Clark
- **Child Support Guidelines** – Supervising Attorney Lisa Pertee
- **Contemporary Case Management** – Employment Specialist Christy Nichols

Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) Update

The CSEA's EDMS project continues to progress well. As of the date of this report, nearly **48,000 documents** and over **147,000 individual pages** have been scanned into the system. Wow!

We have also been sharing experiences with other county offices who are interested in pursuing the EDMS option. We have made presentations to the Commissioners, Domestic Relations Court and Clerk of Courts. Having the ability to exchange electronic documents with the Courts and Clerk, would further enhance the efficiency for the CSEA. We are also very hopeful that Community Services will be able to purchase the system, as it would greatly benefit our many, mutual customers.

Child Support Collections

	2006	2007	2008	\$ Diff	% Diff
January	1,720,232	1,736,549	1,736,902	352	0.02%
February	1,660,532	1,598,250	1,752,646	154,396	9.66%
March	2,066,808	1,936,927	2,037,672	100,745	5.2%
April	1,638,915	1,894,662	1,810,314	-84,347	-4.45%
May	1,938,947	1,979,043	1,944,264	-34,779	-1.76%
June	1,980,235	1,862,029	1,869,723	7,694	0.41%
July	1,748,439	1,713,398	1,833,759	120,361	7.02%
August	1,711,087	1,799,685	1,863,257	63,571	3.53%
September	1,711,172	1,608,788		102,384	-5.98%
October	1,746,150	1,842,090		95,940	5.49%
November	1,689,702	1,899,824		210,122	12.4%
December	1,773,269	1,731,562		-28,433	1.58%
Total	21,385,488	21,602,806		217,318	1.02%

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AFTER THE STORM - SOCIAL SERVICES HELPS OLDER ADULTS

Many older adult and disabled Fairfield County residents were severely impacted by the hurricane-force winds that tore through our county on Sunday, September 14. The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, in an effort to help those who suffered significant losses or damage, allocated \$11,000 to serve adults over age 55, and disabled adults under age 55, who met the income guidelines of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

With the allocation of \$11,000, the Social Services Department was able to provide financial assistance for food replacement, home repairs, shelter, and safety equipment. Many of the 55 customers served through the program were not eligible for food stamps. A separate program, specifically for food stamp recipients, allowed the re-issuance of food stamps for qualifying seniors.

Most of the customers who came to JFS, or called for assistance, needed food. For a single adult living alone, an allotment of \$162 was given for the purchase of groceries at Carnival, Meijer, or Wal-Mart, the three grocery vendors for FCJFS. For an older couple who met the income guidelines, \$300 was issued for groceries.

At least one disabled adult was left homeless following the storm. This APS customer was provided shelter in one of the local hotels until she can find alternative living arrangements. One elderly lady, who suffers from breathing difficulties and other serious health problems, was allotted \$750 (the maximum amount allowed through the program) to apply for the purchase of a generator.

From the beginning of the program on Tuesday, through 4:00 p.m. on Friday, the Social Services Department staff did not stop. One customer after another entered our agency to seek help, primarily for food or re-issuance of food stamps. **The Adult Unit Eligibility Referral Specialists were able to re-issue food stamps for approximately 350 food stamp customers** between Tuesday and Friday.

RADIO SHOW WITH AN "ATTITUDE"

Thanks to the generosity of our local Target store, and the willingness of Mark Bohach, owner/operator of WLOH (1320 Talk Radio), a new radio show targeting older adult listeners made its debut on Saturday, September 6, at 11:00 a.m. **Aging With an Attitude** is a weekly, half-hour show, designed to inform and inspire adults over the age of 50.

The first half of the show features a guest who is between the ages of "50 and 150," and whose passion and fervor for life can serve as an inspiration to others in this age group. During the second half of each show, the guest represents an agency or service that can make life easier or better for older adults.

As host of the show, Patty Ciripompa invited Beth Kehrer to be her first guest. Beth, who works as a Case Manager for the Child Support Enforcement Agency, is also a drag racer who has won several meets against a field of (primarily) men and younger contestants. Her story can also be viewed in the most recent edition of the **JFS Link**. Janet Stout also appeared on the first show, discussing the services provided by Faith in Action.

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Subsequent shows have featured Dean Scholl, who was recently inducted into the COAAA Senior Hall of Fame; Mary C. Stoner, an 81-year-old woman who learned to quilt in later life and who now teaches it; Dave Fey, whose passion for geology led him to restoring Rockmill; and Dave Kessler, who discussed exploitation of seniors, and how to avoid victimization.

Aging With an Attitude can be heard on 1320, WLOH (AM), on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., Sundays at 6:00 a.m., and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

39 REFERRALS MADE TO APS IN 14 DAY PERIOD

During the first 14 work days of September, Adult Protective Services received 39 referrals. Two (2) of the referrals involved financial exploitation; four (4) were allegations of neglect by others; three (3) were allegations of physical abuse. The majority of referrals to APS continue to involve cases of self-neglect, with two-thirds of these reports involving elderly women who are widowed, divorced, or single.

The average age of customers referred to APS as the result of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation is 68. **The eldest victim referred during September is a 93-year-old woman,** allegedly being exploited by family members.

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RECEIVE TRAINING

On Saturday, September 13, 42 child care providers attended an intensive training presented by the JFS Child Care team. From 8:00 a.m. through Noon, the providers were trained on new regulations that took effect August 14, and were given an accordion file filled with newly implemented forms.

In addition to the form introduction and review, all attendees were given the opportunity to be fingerprinted on site. Suzie Lynch, Child Care Team Lead, also presented a special training for those providers who want to begin using a new invoicing system.

Providers who attended the training were also given a carbon monoxide detector, a complete first aid kit, and other safety items. The "treat bag" was funded through Action for Children Quality funds. Response from those who attended the training was 100% positive, with all providers sharing appreciation for the time taken by the Child Care team to acquaint them with new rules and procedures.

During the month of August, **the Child Care Unit received 125 new applications, and served a total of 1,515 children.** Expenditures for the month of August totaled \$459,690.98.

**Programs & Operations Highlights Calendar
Year-to-Date Comparison**

Direct Expenditures	1/1/2008 - 8/31/2008	1/1/2007 - 8/31/2007	Increase / Decrease
Adult Protective Services	18,248.75	37,441.66	19,192.91 -
Child Care	3,109,124.78	2,485,852.11	623,272.67 +
Non Emergency Transportation	360,027.52	307,081.93	52,945.59 +
Prevention, Retention and Contingency	198,190.90	627,054.55	428,863.65 -
Work Activity Contracts	74,089.32	0.00	74,089.32 +
Board and Care (Agency Foster Homes)	168,030.00	187,824.41	19,794.41 -
Board and Care (Network Foster Homes)	779,333.50	683,235.60	96,097.90 +
Substance Abuse Screening Services	71,899.00	67,600.00	4,299.00 +
IV-D Contract Expenditures	104,699.08	63,499.54	41,199.54 +
Workforce Investment Act	188,588.27	184,571.07	4,017.20 +

Several major JFS program areas are experiencing significant increases in expenditures, most likely as a result of the prevailing economy. Costs have risen most significantly in the areas of subsidized child care, transportation, and board and care for foster children.

Child Care expenses will continue to increase even more; JFS has paid out \$3,109,124 already this calendar year, which is significantly more than JFS paid out during the same time period of the prior calendar year. Beginning in August, guidelines for child care eligibility expanded to include families earning less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$3,534 for a family of 4), allowing more families to qualify for subsidized child care.

Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) and Network Board and Care expenses have also seen large increases as shown in the chart above.

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OUL Job Fair and Teen Expo a Success!!

Over 50 employers and 250 job seekers attended the WorkNet Job Fair on Friday, September 12th. On Saturday, September 13th close to the same amount attended the Teen Expo.

Hits on Myworknet.com – 18,050

On-site employers – 4

New employers – 18

New job postings – 17

Average number of daily job postings - 96

Unemployment Rates

Fairfield County 5.9

Pickaway County 6.9

Ross County 7.9

WorkNet Partners With Employers To Hold On-Site Interviews And Take Applications

Anchor Hocking, ResCare, and H & R block, are all companies that used WorkNet to hold interviews this month. WorkNet in partnership with various employers have been holding open interviews at WorkNet to help businesses with their hiring process. WorkNet accepted over 250 applications for various employers in the local area.

WorkNet Customer Count - * Highest Number On Record

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	-	749	958	924	1580	1879	2161
February	-	651	846	699	1419	1020	1794
March	-	807	1004	1184	1895	1606	1964
April	592	943	985	917	1305	1425	2224
May	547	748	989	979	1411	1614	1878
June	371	1100	1126	1165	1675	1493	2011
July	447	1129	877	1180	1466	1674	*2331
August	492	992	1015	1752	1813	1695	2058
September	566	906	1020	1334	1611	1376	
October	683	895	689	1277	1471	1429	
November	442	757	767	1172	1110	1360	
December	452	712	811	1106	1085	1195	

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Our Mission

The mission of the Family Support and Visitation Center is to support children and families who have been affected by divorce, separation, abuse, neglect or domestic violence. Through education and provision of a safe, comfortable environment, our focus is to promote family engagement and healthy, meaningful adult/child relationships.

August 2008 Statistics

Visitation/Exchange Services	
Monitored Exchanges	43
Supervised Visits	176
Referrals Received	9
Number Of Adults Served	222
Number Of Non-custodial parents	114
Number Of Children	152
Number Of Cases Reporting Domestic Violence *	19/67

*Domestic Violence includes reports or history of physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse and the threat and/or use of weapons to harm.

Parent Education Services	
Parent Education Sessions (hours)	28
Parent Education Related Events (hours)	60.25
Parent Educators in Family Court (hours)	4.25
Referrals Received	8
Number Of Adults Served	48
Number Of Non-Custodial Parents	18
Number Of Children	28
Total Time Spent PE Classes	66.75

In August, the Center received nine **(9) referrals for Visitation and Exchange Services**. So far in September, there have been 12 referrals. Currently there is no waiting list.

The **Parent Education Services Team received eight (8) new referrals** for one-on-one services in August. There are 10 families who are receiving services, several in the process of scheduling Family Team Meetings, and two on hold.

In August, there were five (5) referrals for PE classes. August also had 66.75 hours were spent on curriculum development, processing referrals, case management activities and class facilitation. There were 40 participants in the **Remember The Children classes in August.**

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The Newest Additions to the JFS Staff

	<p>Ursula Laveck joins JFS as a Public Information Specialist with the Human Resources Department. Ursula is in the process of completing her Bachelor's with a major in Finance from Ohio University in Athens. Ursula recently worked as the Fiscal and HR Manager at the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center. Welcome Ursula!</p>
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The Newest Promotions at JFS

	<p>Mandy Huffman has been employed with JFS since October of 2007 in the Child Support Enforcement Department. Mandy was recently promoted to a Case Manager position within Child Support Enforcement. Mandy is ready to take on her new challenge. Congratulations!</p>
	<p>Janice Pickering has been employed with JFS since July of 2007 with the Child Support Enforcement Department. Janice has been working as a Clerical Specialist 4 (Case Manager Assistant) and was recently promoted to a Child Support Case Manager position. Congratulations!</p>

Job & Family Services United Way Campaign Kickoff Update

Once again JFS kicked off the United Way Campaign with a bang! The United Way Day Breakfast and Basket Raffle was held September 12. Employees brought in various breakfast foods to share with the entire staff. After the breakfast, staff participated in the United Way basket raffle.

Basket themes this year were, "Wii Make a Difference" (yes...it included a new Wii with lots of extras), "The Good Life" (patio double swing, throw pillows, lap blankets, etc.), "We're Cooking" (pots and pans, cookbooks, utensils, etc.), "Lunch for a Month" (an abundance of gift cards to various restaurants), "Home Repair" (Lowe's gift cards, miscellaneous tools, tool box, etc.) and "Scrapbooking" (a chest to hold all the goodies, a digital camera, papers, scissors, stickers, etc.). The items in the baskets were donated by local businesses or staff.

The basket raffle brought in a grand total of **\$3,249 which will be donated to the United Way of Fairfield County**. We are pleased to begin our campaign in this manner and look forward to being able to continue the momentum through the employee pledge card drive.