



18 Months and Counting for Enhanced Protective Services in Fairfield County!

While *Citizens to Protect Children and Elderly from Abuse and Neglect* and hundreds of community volunteers worked very hard last winter to pass a *new* protective services levy in Fairfield County, revenue from the levy will not be 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 received, but will continue to be unable to provide the enhanced services needed until additional resources become available.

We appreciate the continued patience and understanding of our dedicated caseworkers, support staff, stakeholders and community partners.



Fuel prices impact budget-balancing efforts. Additional travel restrictions implemented by agency officials.

The dramatic increase in the cost of fuel is making it difficult for agency officials to balance an already strained 2008 budget. In addition to the more than 10,000 one-way trips performed by agency transportation specialists, each year, FCJFS' 50 caseworkers and social workers are statutorily mandated to travel on a daily basis daily to investigate reports of abuse and neglect, conduct home visits, and monitor compliance.

In 2008, travel reimbursement costs are exceeding budget by **16%**. On June 26, 2008, the Internal Revenue Service increased travel reimbursement rates from \$ 0.505 to \$0.585 per mile which will further increase travel costs incurred by the agency.

Responding to deep budget cuts and reductions in the agency workforce in 2003, FCJFS officials implemented restrictions and limitations on out-of-county and discretionary in-county travel. These cost-cutting policies remain in effect and have saved taxpayers thousands of dollars over the past five years. Leadership and professional staff are only approved for training and non- case related travel when the travel is statutorily mandated or if a grant or outside funding source is available to cover expenses.

Effective July 1, 2008, all discretionary (non-casework related) travel must be approved in advance by the agency director, and will be limited to activities designed to increase/promote operational efficiencies, limit agency risk, or increase revenue.

In addition, leadership officials will initiate departmental transportation assessments, in order to develop recommendations to minimize statutorily mandated travel occurrences and to reduce the anticipated budget deficits for travel anticipated in 2008.

Calendar Highlights

New Staff Orientation

July 3rd, 2008
8:30 a.m. @ FCJFS

Hiring Event

U.S. Corregated
Friday, July 11th
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 12th
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
@ The Liberty Center





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.

Make your opinion count! There is still time to participate in the FCJFS Strategic Planning survey.

In 2005, FCJFS officials developed and published a long-term strategic plan intended to guide agency programming, financial planning, and goal development for the period of 2005-2010. To view the current (2005-2010) FCJFS Strategic Plan, visit our website at www.fcjfs.org, click on reports and scroll down the FCJFS Strategic Plan.

On an annual basis, agency leadership, staff, community partners, key stakeholders, customers, and Community Advisory and Planning Panel (CAPP) members participate in a structured process to update the plan. This process involves the on- going monitoring of stakeholder feedback and program performance outcomes and indicators, as well as development and prioritization of annual goal updates.

You will have the opportunity to provide your feedback on proposed 2008 FCJFS goal areas and priorities by participating in a quick on-line survey on our web site home page (www.fcjfs.org). Please let us know what you think. It is quick and easy, and will help us to better serve children and families in Fairfield County.



See you at the July 4th Parade in Lancaster

The Community Services caseload for May 2008 is 5,868 open cases. This includes Healthy Start/Healthy Families, Food Stamps, and Ohio Works First.

In May, there were 243 scheduled intakes; 203 customers attended intake appointments, (families who do not currently have an open case requesting assistance). Sixteen percent were a no show to the appointment.

Help Desk staff answered 949 requests from families in the month of May. Of those contacts, 810 were walk-in customers and 139 were phone contacts. Help Desk is staffed by one Success Coach and one Eligibility Referral Specialist each day.

Food Stamp cases totaled 3,009 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 1,874 open cases in May. The majority of these families have employment in the household. There were 11 fraud referrals for the month of May.

The average caseload for Eligibility Referrals Specialists during May was 415 cases—the highest in five years.

In May, 642 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 Department Receives Grant for Utility Assistance

Community Services was awarded \$8,888.00 from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) to assist customers with utility bills. EFSP is a Federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food, and supportive services for the nation's hungry, homeless, and people in economic crisis.

Local boards are convened to determine the highest need and best use of funds and to select local recipient organizations to provide assistance to members of their community. United Way of Fairfield County chairs the local board in Fairfield County. Funding will be available through November, 2008. However, our expectation is that the money will not last that through that entire time frame.

Because of the reduced funding available through our emergency assistance program, (Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program), this additional funding is extremely important to assist low-income families with the high cost of utility bills. Kristin Ankrom, PRC Coordinator, states "This is a great opportunity to coordinate funding streams to assist families in emergency situations."

Transportation Hosts Meet & Greet for Transportation Vendors

The Transportation Team hosted a "Meet and Greet" on June 20th, to foster strong relationships between JFS staff, for vendors who provide transportation through the Non-Emergency Transportation program and for Child Protective Services families. Each month, contracted agencies provide an average of 1,500 one way trips. More than 47 people attended the event with representatives from the Center for DisAbilities and Functional Training Services. Other contract agencies include: Salvation Army, Lancaster Public Transit, and Creative Coach.

The Transportation Team provides gas vouchers, transports directly, or schedules with contracted agencies more than 6,000 one-way trips each month. Funding for the transportation is through the Medicaid program, Non Emergency Transportation and through TANF funding (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).

In April, **the Transportation Team provided 6,119 one-way trips** through the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation program and through TANF funding. A total of 3,210 one-way trips utilizing gas vouchers were issued through the Non Emergency Medicaid Transportation and TANF transportation; 519 one-way trips were provided by JFS drivers, and 759 one-way trips were provided through contract agencies such as; Lancaster Public Transit, Functional Training Services, Center for Disabilities, and Salvation Army. Families involved with Child Protective Services were provided 866 one-way trips; 350 gas vouchers, 123 through contract agencies, and 393 one-way trips utilizing JFS drivers.



Pictured, are Dr. Edwin Payne, Center for DisAbilities, Sharon Noice, JFS Transporter, Sharma Tate, JFS Transporter, and Kelley Rogers, Functional Training Services.

R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. House – Preparing At Risk Youth For Success

In the summer of 2006, CPS launched an initiative to better serve youth in foster care, ages 16-18, in preparing to live independently. Local, state and national data clearly demonstrates that this population exits the foster care system unprepared for life and usually ending up unemployed, undereducated, homeless or even worse, incarcerated. This is unacceptable. How do we turn the tide—enter R.E.A.L.I.T.Y House. The acronym stands for **Realistic Education And Living Independently Training for Youth**.

At it's onset, the R.E.A.L.I.T.Y House focused on providing living space for five youth who were nearing the age of 18, but were unemployed, considering dropping out of school and dealing with legal issues. Today, we're proud to announce that R.E.A.L.I.T.Y House has had eight residents graduate, become gainfully employed, join the military or move on to higher education. The remaining two residents have one more year of school.

With this kind of success, the program is expanding these benefits to other youth not residing in the house. To do this, a specific, detailed 16 week curriculum has been established and is now offered to all foster care youth, ages

16-18 involved with Fairfield County Child Protective Services. Since this phase of the programs has been implemented, 48 youth have participated in Independent Living Training Classes. The curriculum includes a pre- and post-test to evaluate the students level of understanding prior to taking the classes and measure knowledge gained upon completion. Upon entering the course, youth learn and gain hands-on experience in the areas of personal appearance, community resources, housekeeping, food management, job seeking and maintenance skills, educational planning, money management and housing. Of the 48 youth who have taken the pre-assessment test, nearly 90% of them scored below 80% in having adequate understanding about living independently. Of the students who have completed all 16 weeks of the training, all have scored near 100% in demonstrating their knowledge gained from course work.

Even with the successes mentioned above, this does not tell the whole picture. Several of the youth residing at R.E.A.L.I.T.Y House have been excited to share the benefits of a program like this with others throughout the state. Two of the residents have actively participated in the Ohio Youth Advisory Board and three residents were featured at the Ohio Summit On Children which was convened by Chief Supreme Court Justice Thomas J. Moyer. You can view their presentations at the following website: <http://www.summitonchildren.ohio.gov/resources/videos/children.html>. Those involved with R.E.A.L.I.T.Y House on a daily basis see the positive growth and promise of a better future. The next phase of the program is to explore opportunities for mentoring and apprenticeships. If you or someone you know would be interested in making a life changing impact on any youth involved with Fairfield County CPS, I encourage you to contact Rich Bowlen, at 740.689.4832.



Located at 1663 Baltimore Rd., contact Rich Bowlen at 689.4832 to schedule a tour.

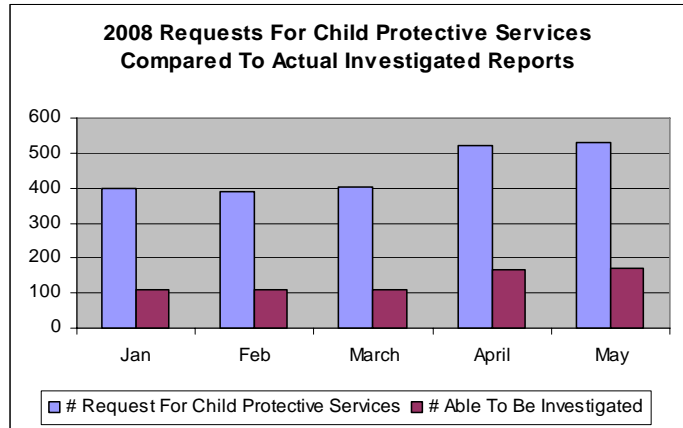
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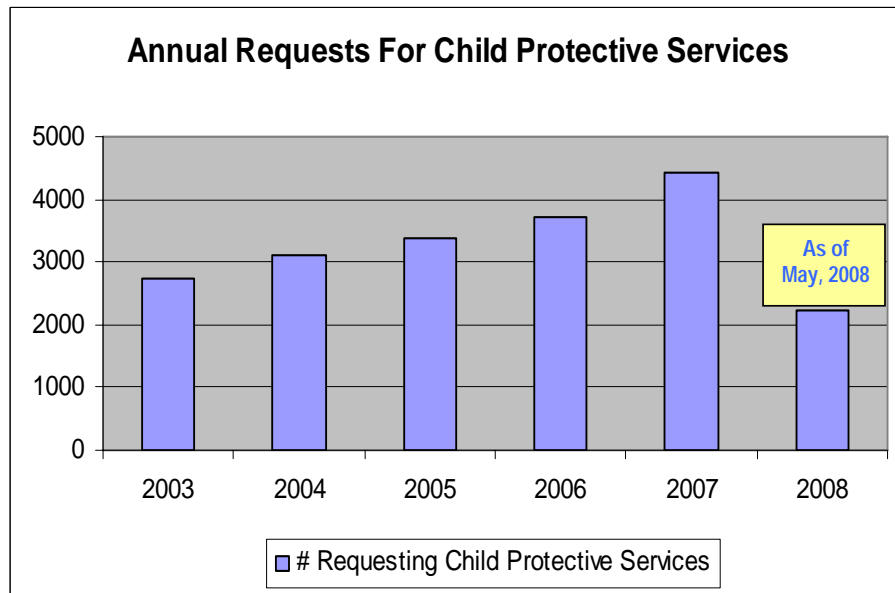
Record Numbers Continue To Be Received By Child Protective Services

Throughout 2008, CPS continues to receive a record number of requests for service. However, given current staffing challenges, the agency is only able to investigate less than 40% of these calls.

The chart to the right demonstrates the number of requests received on a monthly basis for child protective services as well as the number of cases that are able to be assigned for investigation. Doing this means more and more children are not being assessed, therefore, placing them in potentially harmful situations. To gain a historical perspective, the chart below demonstrates the constantly increasing trend of more and more cases coming into the agency each year. As depicted below, CPS has nearly received as many requests for services this year as in the entire year of 2003.



May 2008



Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) Update

The CSEA is well on their way to being virtually "paperless". The pilot period was a big success and all staff members have now received access to the system. Initial testing of the system has been completed, and the roll out is now underway.

Paper case files are being scanned every day, and eventually will be shredded in favor of the "electronic case file". The system continues to be tested and modified to ensure a successful transition. Staff have quickly recognized the many benefits and conveniences of the EDMS.

Currently CSEA Management is evaluating the time, efficiency and cost of scanning the existing files to determine the best way to proceed with scanning all the back files. The options include: contracting with a vendor, hiring temporary staff, or utilizing existing staff (which will likely require overtime compensation). A decision will need to be made in the near future in order to fully implement the system.

State Budget Update for CSEA's

Tuesday, Gov. Ted Strickland signed the capital appropriations/budget corrections bill, HB562 (Hottinger), vetoing a total of 13 items. Among the vetoed items, is the six-month moratorium on the closing of state mental health facilities, transfers from the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) and the distribution of excess Department of Education funds to non-public schools.

The transfers from the BSF would have restored some of the funding cuts for child support, among other things. The Ohio Child Support Directors Association (OCDa) had lobbied for this provision and received support from the General Assembly prior to the Governor's veto. The OCDa is still pursuing several other options at the state, and federal level to help restore funding.

Project 880

The State of Ohio is looking to implement a new program called Project 880. The state Office of Child Support (OCS) would identify the top 10 cases in each county (in terms of largest arrearage amounts). Those 10 cases would be intensively worked by the county until each case achieves collections, or can be closed. Once all 10 cases are resolved, the state would identify the next top ten, and so on. The anticipated benefit will be the overall state performance is improved by resolving the most egregious cases around the state.

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		118,206	-5.97%
July	1,748,439	1,713,398		35,041	-2.00%
August	1,711,087	1,799,685		88,599	5.18%
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		327,172	1.55%

May 2008

82 REFERRALS TO APS IN MAY

From May 1st through May 31st, 82 referrals were made to Adult Protective Services. Of this total, 51 cases were opened for ongoing investigation and case management. Thirty-one (31) of the referrals were addressed by providing or referring to services for immediate needs, such as transportation or food.

Forty-one of the referrals were initially identified as self-neglect, although further findings were made during the investigation. Two referrals involved alleged abuse (one involved sexual abuse of an older adult), and five involved exploitation. Three of the referrals involved neglect by others.

One of the most recent cases investigated by APS involved an elderly woman with dementia who has been the victim of physical abuse throughout her married life. Referral sources led APS investigators to witnesses of ongoing physical abuse, as well as, past episodes of sexual abuse. It was learned that the perpetrator (husband) owns several firearms, and has repeatedly threatened to use them against anyone who comes onto his property.

Based upon the reports of potential violence, APS investigators worked closely with the elderly victim's physician, and were successful in getting her admitted to the hospital. Subsequently, a diagnosis of Alzheimer's and a finding of "not competent" were made, enabling APS to facilitate Guardianship through Attorney Jeff Feyko.

It is anticipated that the elderly victim will be admitted to a nursing home for long-term care following her hospital stay. In talking with one of her adult sons who lives away from home, one of the APS investigators asked him, "In your opinion, what is it that your mother needs most? How can we help her?" The son did not hesitate in responding, "Get her out of there." As of June 20th, the elderly victim is out of the house and safe.

SEMINAR FOR MATURE SERVICES PRESENTED BY ADULT UNIT

Forty senior citizens proved to be an enthusiastic audience for Adult Unit presenters, Angie Friesner and Linda Burgoon on June 23rd, during a seminar hosted by Mature Services of Fairfield County. Employers of older adults who meet specific income guidelines, Mature Services requested that Angie and Linda present information regarding eligibility for food stamps, Medicaid, Medicaid waiver programs, APS, and other services available to seniors throughout the community.



Held at the Lancaster Community Church, the participants included seniors from Hocking and Perry Counties. Several of these folks expressed surprise that Fairfield County Job & Family Services offers so many resources.

Angie Friesner & Linda Burgoon prepare for their presentation

May 2008

MEDICAID, FOOD STAMPS, WAIVER CASES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

With seven Eligibility Specialists comprising the Adult Unit, applications by older adults seeking help with Medicaid, food stamps, waiver programs, or nursing home assistance continue to rise. In March, 2008 the total caseload for all seven ERS staff was 3,101; in April, it increased to 3,112; and in May, 3,135 older adult and disabled customers were receiving benefits.

KINSHIP PROGRAM HOSTS A FUN-FILLED SUMMER

For grandparents who are raising grandchildren, the Kinship Navigator Program makes summer even more fun. **Over 230 families, caring for over 300 children, are now part of the Kinship Navigator Program.**

On July 24th, the Kinship providers and their grandchildren will enjoy a trip to the zoo, coordinated by Jenny Ruff, Kinship Director. Thanks to the generosity of the Central Ohio Chevy Dealers, the Kinship families will also have the opportunity to attend the Winona and Kenny Loggins concerts on July 19th and July 26th.

A special pool party is also being planned for all Kinship families. On July 16th, families can enjoy a fun-filled day at the Top O' the Caves campground and swimming pool, complete with lunch, crafts, and other activities.

Jenny also reports that the Kinship Closet continues to serve an increasing number of families and individuals. The Closet is always filled with clothing, hygiene items, furniture, and food.

In August, the Kinship Program will once again sponsor free "Back to School" haircuts for children. Shear Image, a local beauty salon, has volunteered the salon and beauticians; Jenny is currently in the process of recruiting additional salons and volunteers.

CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MORE FAMILIES

Beginning in July, eligibility guidelines for subsidized child care will change to include families whose income falls at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty level. This is an increase from the prior guideline, which was 175% of the FPL.

In addition to the projected increase in applicants due to the modification of income guidelines, Child Care staff have also seen an increase in applications for school age children who are on summer break.

May 2008

Funding Sources Calendar Year-to-Date January 1, 2008 through May 31, 2008

	Child Protective Services	Child Support	Public Assistance
GRF	1,143,146.90	176,522.22	195,454.88
Other	1,881,327.17	1,024,083.42	6,224,832.16

Programs & Operations Highlights Calendar Year-to-Date Comparison

Direct Expenditures	1/1/2008 - 5/31/2008	1/1/2007 - 5/31/2007	Increase / Decrease
Adult Protective Services	10,453.99	18,967.52	8,513.53 -
Child Care	1,914,785.78	1,307,072.03	607,713.75 +
Non Emergency Transportation	226,065.23	169,380.67	56,684.56 +
Prevention, Retention and Contingency	99,391.80	142,742.92	43,351.12 -
Work Activity Contracts	49,843.70	0.00	49,843.70 +
Board and Care (Agency Foster Homes)	102,375.00	121,158.05	18,783.05 -
Board and Care (Network Foster Homes)	467,969.34	428,775.76	39,193.58 +
Substance Abuse Screening Services	48,148.00	45,128.00	3,020.00 +
IV-D Contract Expenditures	75,312.55	41,156.54	34,156.01 +
Workforce Investment Act	120,631.89	98,263.07	22,368.82 +

May 2008



U.S. Corrugated – U.S. Corrugated is opening a new plant bringing 110 new jobs to Fairfield County over the next 3 years. U.S. Corrugated recently posted an opening for two Electrician positions. Both positions have been filled from two of the many applications accepted by WorkNet.

WorkNet will be accepting additional applications on July 11th and 12th at the Liberty Center. Applications will be taken on Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Liberty Center is located at 951 Liberty Drive, in Lancaster. Available positions will be:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Single Facer Operator | Baler-Starch Operator | Die Cutter Helper |
| Double Backer Operator | Flexo-Folder Glue | Bander Operator |
| Dry End operator | Operator | Shipping Person |
| Stacker Operator | Flexo-Folder Gluer-Helper | Die Mounter |
| Clamp Truck Operator | Die Cutter Operator | Forklift Driver |

Minimum qualifications for the above positions include the following:

- o High School Diploma/GED
- o 2-3 years experience in an industrial environment
- o Knowledge in Safety procedures
- o Machine operation experience
- o Self motivated, team player who is seeking career advancement opportunities

WIA AREA 20 – Two 08-09 Youth contracts have been awarded to the following vendors, 1) Workforce Services Unlimited and 2) Teen Works. [WSU](#) will be focusing on WIA eligible youth ages 14-21, concentrating on Dropout Recovery Services by providing tutoring and basic skills instructions that will lead to the completion of a high school diploma or the attainment of a GED. [Teen Works](#) is a youth operated, temporary staffing agency business concept that will reinforce the education, confidence, and sense of purpose to compete in the real world. Activities will include the following: tutoring, paid or unpaid work experience, leadership development opportunities, goal setting, adult mentoring, and interaction with alternative secondary school services.

Unemployment Rate: **Fairfield 5.7** **Pickaway 6.6** **Ross 7.4**

WorkNet partners with employers to hold on site interviews and take applications.

Anchor Hocking, US Corrugated, ResCare, ManCan, Spherion, ComforCare, Fed Ex, Ambassador Home Health Services, 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 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	
July	447	1129	877	1180	1466	1674	
August	492	992	1015	1752	1813	1695	
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	

May 2008



Family Support and Visitation Center

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.

May 2008 Statistics

Visitation/Exchange Services

Monitored Exchanges: 53
Supervised Visits: 162
Referrals received: 26
Number of adults served: 218
Number of noncustodial parents: 107
Number of children: 150

Number of cases reporting Domestic Violence*: 20/69

*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): 16.75
Parent Education Related Events (Hours): 32.5
Parent Educators in Family Court (Hours): 1
Referrals Received: 3
Number of adults Served: 30
Number of noncustodial parents: 11
Number of children: 23

Total time spent PE Classes: 113

In May, the Center received 26 referrals for **Visitation and Exchange Services**. So far in June, there have been 16 referrals and one family on the waiting list. The unit is currently fully staffed.

The **Parent Education Services** Team received three new referrals for one-on-one services in May. There are 12 families who are currently receiving services, and one pending/waiting. In May, there were four referrals for PE classes. The last class in the first cycle was held June 12, 2008. There were nine classes held. The next cycle begins July 9, 2008. Upon evaluation of the first cycle, a few adjustments will be made.

Jason Condrac was hired as the Remember The Children contract facilitator.



May 2008



May 2008

The Newest Additions to the JFS Staff

	<p>Jeff Moyer joins JFS as an Eligibility Referral Specialist 1 (Case Worker in Training) with the Community Services Department. Jeff graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor's in Education in 2007 and recently worked as an Electronic Bingo Maintainer with Lancaster Bingo. Welcome Jeff!</p>
	<p>Mindy Swisher comes to JFS as a Social Service Worker 2 (Screener) with the Child Protective Services Department. Mindy holds a Bachelor's in Social Work from Ohio University. Mindy is a familiar face at JFS due to her internship and part-time employment for the past 3 years. Welcome Mindy!</p>

American Red Cross Bloodmobile at JFS

For the past several years, JFS has hosted a blood drive for the American Red Cross at least three times a year. Our next blood drive will be at JFS on Friday, July 18 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Individuals who are interested in donating blood can call 681-4729 for an appointment. JFS employees demonstrate support for this important community need by donating regularly and making up the majority of the donors at each drive.

Defensive Driving for Employees

Defensive driving courses are part of the risk management services that CORSAs offers to member counties without charge. In an effort to equip JFS employees who drive on a regular basis with the necessary skills that could protect them and prevent potential accidents, the agency requires these employees to participate in the annual defensive driving courses offered by CORSAs. This past May, approximately 75 employees received this valuable training.

