



# Clermont County Family & Children First Newsletter

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Summer 2005

*The mission of the Clermont County Family and Children First Council is to promote and facilitate communication and collaboration among Clermont County child and family serving agencies to ensure that Clermont County infants, children, adolescents and their families receive the most appropriate services to enable youth to develop adequate skills in preparation for a successful adulthood.*

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Ohio's commitments to child well-being, are:

- Expectant Parents and Newborns Thrive
- Infants and Toddlers Thrive
- Children are Ready for School
- Children and Youth Succeed in School
- Youth Choose Healthy Behaviors
- Youth Successfully Transition into Adulthood

## DEATH2METH

After an explosion of production and use in California in the 80's and 90's, Methamphetamine (Meth) has been making its way to the eastern part of the country. Clermont County is the leader in the discovery of Meth labs in Ohio, with 40 being busted in the last 2 years. The increase in Meth production and use in Clermont County led Tim McCartney, Laura Stith, Becky Arnold and Dave Spiess, of the Clermont 20/20 Leadership Class of 2005 to focus on a Meth awareness campaign. The awareness campaign is called "Death2Meth." They are working to get the word out about Meth by their website, [www.death2meth.com](http://www.death2meth.com). The website includes articles that have written about Meth, FAQs, the threat of Meth, how to report a lab and a link to Clermont County's Child Protective Services' website. Please visit the website for information about Meth. Listed below are several facts about Meth included on the website:

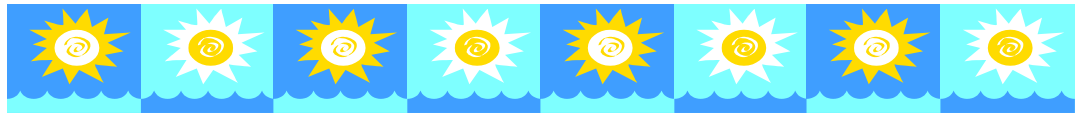
Meth is a man-made drug that contains such ingredients as Sudafed, Lithium (found in batteries), alcohol/alcohol-based products, Ether/starting fluid, Sulfuric Acid/Acetone, Industrial strength drain cleaner and rock salt.

Meth can be smoked, snorted, orally ingested or injected.

Meth is a stimulant that can increase wakefulness and decrease appetite. Meth causes a large release of Dopamine in the brain. Users appear agitated, have rapid speech and increased activity. Physical changes include dilated pupils, increased heart rate, increase blood pressure, increased body temperature and tremors.

Meth is highly addictive. In the long-term, Meth users may show significant weight loss, teeth grinding and open wounds. Use of Meth can cause irreparable damage to the blood vessels in the brain, resulting in stroke. Chronic users may have violent behavior and psychotic features, such as paranoia, hallucinations or delusions.

Each pound of Meth leaves behind 5-6 pounds of toxic waste, which is typically disposed of inappropriately. There are huge costs to clean up a Meth lab.



## FCF Retreat

The Clermont County Family and Children First Council held a Retreat on May 13, 2005. The Retreat began with the monthly Council meeting, followed by discussion regarding future planning. Pictured (L to R) are: Jean Houston (Parent Representative), Ron Halcomb (Help Me Grow) and Beth Popich (MRDD/Early Intervention Services).



## Family Support Event a Success!

On Friday, May 20th the Wildey Center in Owensville was the site of the Spring Family Support Event, hosted by the Clermont Help Me Grow Family Support and Child Find Committee. Children and families who receive Help Me Grow services were invited to share in an evening of food and fun. Over 150 families and children attended the event!



Activities for the event were a huge hit! The Cincinnati Zoo brought a tarantula, an armadillo, a python and a potto (a relative of the lemur family). The potto is only 1 of 12 in the United States and has been on the Johnny Carson show. This potto has also been petted by Prince Charles of England. The kids really enjoyed the hands-on experi-

ence with the animals.

The Owensville Fire Department brought a fire truck to the event. Children and their parents were able to meet fire department staff and explore the truck! The children really liked to honk the horn!

A drawing at the end of the evening giving away 20 Kings Island tickets was also a hit!

Clermont Help Me Grow would like to thank the following for their generous donations for the event: Trauth Dairy, Graeter's Ice Cream, S&S Beauty Supply, the Cincinnati Reds, Sara Lee and Paramount's Kings Island.

A special thank you is given to the Cincinnati Zoo and the Owensville Fire Department as well!

A big thank you to the Family Support Committee and all the staff who assisted to make this such a

successful event for the community.

Family Support Events are held twice a year, once in the Spring and again during the holiday season. The event is meant to be a casual event for families to enjoy together and to network with other families.

Look for the flyer for the Winter Family Support Event to be distributed in November 2005.

Pictured below is a potto!



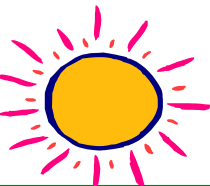
## FCF spotlights... Susan Hurd

Susan Hurd is the newest member of the Clermont County Family and Children First staff. She is the Quality of Care Manager, responsible for auditing client records at various providers to ensure that children are receiving care as detailed in their case plans and that the services received are clinically appropriate.

Susan received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Northern Kentucky University. She plans to attend Spalding Uni-

versity to obtain her graduate degree.

Susan has provided Abstinence Based Sexuality Education in the Cincinnati Public School system and has also provided case management and healthy relationship education while employed at Santa Maria Community Services.



In the 70's, Susan was a foster parent to at risk adolescent boys.

She has 4 children (a daughter and 3 sons ages 15, 17 and 19). She is a grandmother to 18 mo, Haley, who she loves to spoil on the weekends!

In her free time, Susan enjoys gardening, playing music and writing.

Susan looks forward to working in Clermont County to make a positive difference in the lives of the children.

## Levies on Ballot November 8th

On November 8th, Clermont County citizens will be voting on two levies. The outcome of those votes will have an effect on the services that children and families in the county receive.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board's levy is a replacement levy of .70 mil. This would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$21.44 per year. The replacement levy is needed due to reductions in state allocations. The levy will allow the Mental Health & Recovery Board to maintain funding of the current prevention and treat-

ment services provided to children and adults.

The Children's Protective Services' levy is a replacement levy of 1 mil, which would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about



\$30.63 per year. As Clermont County grows there has been an

increase in the number of abuse cases in which children have been seriously injured. Clermont County is also a leader in Ohio for the number of methamphetamine labs discovered and in 2004, approximately 40 children were placed in foster care as a result.

Please support services provided to children in Clermont County. Exercise your right to vote on November 8th!



## Did You Know?

- Overall, chemical dependence treatment saves taxpayers an estimated \$9,177 per person treated.
- Approximately 60% of individuals who complete chemical dependency treatment and attend self-help groups are likely to remain alcohol and drug-free.
- The average Medicaid costs for individuals with substance abuse problems who receive treatment is nearly 50% less than for ad-

dicted individuals who do not receive treatment.

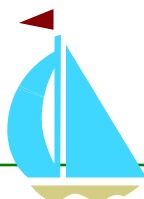
- Recovering people work, and for each employed Ohioan, the combined state and local annual tax gain is, on average, \$2,869 per person.
- The recovery rate for individuals who have received treatment for bipolar disorder is approximately 80%; for major depression, obsessive com-

pulsive disorder and panic disorder—70%; and for schizophrenia—60%.

- Employment rates among people with schizophrenia double with the use of appropriate medications.

\*Information from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities

**For every dollar spent on treatment, there is an economic return of between \$4-\$7 when taking into account productivity in school and work, and reduction in crime, child abuse and homelessness.**



## Learn More About...WISHES

The WISHES day care program, housed at the Wildey Center in Owensville, is an innovative approach to providing care to children with disabilities. The program has a capacity of 8 children, ages birth to 3. Four of the children are developmentally on target and 4 are developmentally delayed or have medical disabilities.

WISHES allows parents of children with disabilities to work or

attend school, while ensuring that their child's needs are met. Nurses are available and the staff to child ratio is low, 1:4.

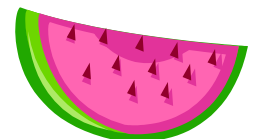


Often times traditional day cares are reluctant to accept or are not equipped to accept children with disabilities. Their staff are not specifically trained and their facilities are not

equipped to work with children with disabilities. This has been an issue with parents who would like to work outside the home and need day care.

WISHES is a joint effort of Clermont Help Me Grow, Child Focus Inc. and MRDD's Early Intervention Program.

For more information, call 528-7224

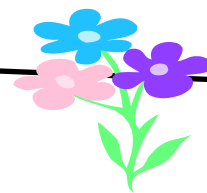


## Clermont County Family & Children First

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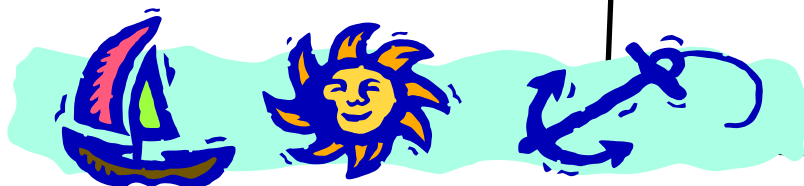
Phone: 513-732-5412  
Fax: 513-732-5415

**The vision of the Clermont County Family and Children First Council is to ensure intersystem collaboration to improve the well being of the children and families of Clermont County.**



### FAST \$ FOLLOW-UP

FAST \$ will continue as a funding source in State Fiscal Year 2006. As stated in the Winter Newsletter, FAST \$ is pooled funding from the Ohio Departments of Mental Health, Job and Family Services, Youth Services and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services targeted toward multi-need children. To be eligible to access FAST \$ funds, a child must have a mental health diagnosis, cannot be placed in an out of home setting (i.e. residential treatment or foster care) and must be referred to FCF's Cluster. Services available through FAST \$ funds are: respite care and home-based support services. To learn more about FAST \$ programs or to refer a child to Cluster, please call 732-5413.



## About Autism

**What is Autism?** Autism is a complex developmental disorder that typically appears during the first three years of life. The result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Children and adults with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions and leisure or play activities.

Autism is one of five disorders coming under the umbrella of Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), a category of neurological disorders characterized by "severe and pervasive impairment in several areas of development," including social interaction and communications skills (DSM-IV-TR). The five disorders under PDD are Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD), Rett's Disorder and PDD-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). Each of these disorders has specific diagnostic criteria as outlined by the American Psychiatric Association in its *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV-TR).

**Prevalence.** Autism is the most common of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders, affecting an estimated 1 in 250 birth (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003).

This means that as many as 1.5 million Americans today are believed to have some form of autism.

And that number is on the rise. Based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and other governmental agencies, autism is growing at a rate of 10-17 percent per year. At these rates, the Autism Society of America estimates that the prevalence of autism could reach 4 million Americans in the next decade.

The overall incidence of autism is consistent around the globe, but is four times more prevalent in boys than girls. Autism knows no racial, ethnic or social boundaries, and family income, lifestyle and educational levels do not affect the chance of autism's occurrence.

**Common Characteristics.** Autism is a spectrum disorder. The symptoms and characteristics of autism can present themselves in a wide variety of combinations, from mild to severe. Although autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors, children and adults can exhibit any combination of the behaviors in any degree of severity. Two children, both with the same diagnosis, can act very differently from one another and have varying skills.

Every person with autism is an individual, and like all individuals, has a unique personality and combination of characteristics. Some individuals mildly affected may exhibit only slight delays in language and greater challenges with

social interactions. The person may have difficulty initiating and/or maintaining a conversation. Communication is often described as talking at others. For example, monologue on a favorite subject that continues despite attempts by others to interject comments.

People with autism process and respond to information in unique ways. In some cases, aggressive and/or self-injurious behavior may be present. Persons with autism may also exhibit some of the following traits: insistence on sameness/resistance to change; difficulty in expressing needs, uses gestures or pointing instead of words; laughing, crying, showing distress for reasons not apparent to others; prefers to be alone/alooof manner; tantrums; difficulty in mixing with others; may not want to cuddle or be cuddled; little or no eye contact; unresponsive to normal teaching methods; sustained odd play; spins objects; inappropriate attachment to objects; apparent oversensitivity or under-sensitivity to pain; no real fear of danger; noticeable physical over-activity or extreme under-activity; uneven gross/fine motor skills; not responsive to verbal cues/acts as if deaf although hearing tests in normal range.

*Taken from the Autism Society of America website ([www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org))*

# SUMMER