

# Huron County Department of Job & Family Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HURON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

### April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

Norwalk, Ohio – In 2006, there were 782 reports of child abuse, neglect or dependency in Huron County. Of those, 266 cases were determined to warrant an investigation. Huron County Children Services, the division of Huron County Job & Family Services that handles these reports and investigations, also handles foster care placements, and adoption.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, area mandatory reporters were invited to attend a breakfast at the Norwalk VFW Hall to listen to Judge Solomon Oliver Jr., appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. District Court for the Northern Ohio District.

Mandatory reporters are people employed in positions such as medical and school personnel, law enforcement, social service agencies, childcare providers, and other positions that are an integral part of children's lives.

Huron County Job & Family Services cosponsored the breakfast in conjunction with three area hospitals: Fisher-Titus Medical Center, Mercy Hospital of Willard, and the Bellevue Hospital. Awards were presented in recognition of individuals who stand out as exceptional child advocates.

**Foster Parents of the Year:** Jerralayne Zidarín, and Andrea & Charles Forman

**Rising Up and Moving On Award:** Ron Barnett

**Volunteer of the Year:** DeEtte Zimmerman, Serena Bowles, Becky & Keith Chapin

**Child and Family Professional Award:** School Counselors from area schools were recognized.

Bellevue: Jill Miller, Jane Motley, Tom Weekland, Julie Sanchez, Karen Sabo

Western Reserve: Ann Todd, Melanie Conaway, Jan Jump

Berlin Milan: Dale Morgan, Marlene Putman

EHOVE JVS: Doña Faust, Jim Johnston, Tricia Berger

Monroeville: Jennifer Seiger

New London: Pam Crites, Shannon Mills

Norwalk Parochial: Don Klausung

Norwalk Public Schools: Kathleen Robertson, Gil King, Julia Gullett, Stacy Thimke

Shawnee: John Hinton

Plymouth: Cindy Winkler, Jeff Long

Willard: Doris Boyden, Steve Viperman, Paul Gase, Lori Wiers, Edie Painter, Tom Kagy

South Central: Dawn Smith, Ryan Taglovac

Pioneer Career and Technology Center: Laurie Easler

For more information about the breakfast or foster parenting, call: 419-668-8126.