



## **FULTON COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **August is Child Support Awareness Month**

**April 27th, 2016 (WAUSEON, OH)** The Fulton County Commissioners have proclaimed August 2016 as Child Support Awareness Month with the theme of "Support Your Children, Support Their Dreams." They encourage the community to show their support by wearing green on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

The Ohio child support program impacts more children than any other public program in Ohio, except public education. One in three children are affected by this program.

Ohio bases its child support program on the fundamental belief that children deserve financial support. If children truly are our future, then it is imperative that the child support program aid in the healthy development of children, including the emotional and financial support of both parents.

The child support program ensures parents financially support their children when they are living apart. The program provides many important services, which include collecting child support for families, establishing the legal relationship between children and their parents, enforcing court orders and health insurance coverage.

Ohio establishes paternity for more than 55,000 children born to unmarried parents each year. With nearly 916,669 cases, Ohio collects \$1.7 billion dollars per year on average. Child support is a growing source of income for single parent families, making up 39% of their total income. Employers collect nearly \$1.4 Billion in child support payments each year.

Locally, the Fulton County CSEA has a caseload of 2,218 and collects \$ \$6.7 million per year. Over the past three years, they have finished first in the State of Ohio for Paternity Establishments for a small to medium sized county. Additionally, they were awarded the "April Achievement Award" from the Ohio Office of Child Support Enforcement for reaching their goal on the I-70 project. The I-70 project encourages Ohio CSEAs to develop innovative processes and share best practices in their collection efforts. Representatives from Fulton County CSEA had the opportunity to share their best practices, accomplishments and collection efforts to their counterparts throughout the State via video conference.

Fulton County CSEA continues to reach out and share information by collaborating and building partnerships with people and organizations to support children and strengthen families. To contact them, call 419-337-0010.

"Wear Green Day" participation photos can be sent to [tschindler@fultoncountyoh.com](mailto:tschindler@fultoncountyoh.com) to post to Social Media, or tag Fulton County's Facebook or Twitter page.

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