

CHILDREN'S Herald

It takes a community to protect a child

INSIDE

A word from GCCS Executive Director, Dr.
Rhonda Reagh

Spotlight on Adoption:
A special edition of *Children's Herald*
highlighting children in Greene County
who need permanent homes

**Reminder about our First Annual Bee for
Children**

Going "Green"
Children's Herald continues its effort to
become paperless.

The *Children's Herald* is a quarterly newsletter designed to keep you informed about the news and events at Greene County Children's Services.

Contact us

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, please call (937) 562-6600, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon. through Fri. On weekends, holidays or after 5 p.m., call (937) 372-HELP (4357). For more information about adoption, foster care or volunteer opportunities, please call (937) 562-6600 or visit our website at www.greencs.org.

Celebrating National Adoption Month

All children deserve a loving, permanent home which is the motivation behind the celebration of National Adoption Awareness Month in November. We want to encourage members and families throughout Greene County to open their hearts and homes to foster children who are waiting for forever families.

Today, more than 129,000 children in the U.S. foster care system are available for adoption. That figure includes 19 children in Greene County who are growing up without a permanent family of their own. They entered foster care through no fault of their own, as victims of child abuse, neglect or abandonment and their parents' legal rights have been terminated.

Each year, more children enter the system than are adopted. The typical child who has been freed for adoption is at least nine years old (around 11 in Greene County), moves three or more times in foster care, may have been separated from siblings, and will wait five years or more to be adopted. Tragically, more than 26,000 will never be adopted and leave the system at age 18 going into society without the support of a family.

National Adoption Awareness Month, celebrated annually since 1990, works to increase the number of families willing to consider foster care adoption and celebrates the unique joys of creating families through adoption.

**From the Executive Director
Rhonda Reagh, Ph.D.**

If you have been driving around Greene County lately, perhaps you have encountered the agency's new "There is Hope" PR campaign created to promote Issue 21, the Greene County Children Services levy on the ballot November 4th. I love this campaign because it embodies what we all expect the agency to help create for families, children and the community...hope for the future. But this month it takes on an additional meaning. With your help, there is hope for children who are waiting to be adopted.

November is National Adoption

Month and GCCSB currently has 19 beautiful children, some featured here, waiting for their forever families. During 2007, thanks to the efforts of many, 15 children were adopted and just through September of 2008, another 9 adoptions have been finalized. This is no small feat and we have many to thank for their part in these accomplishments.

We can never forget though, that children only become free for adoption after their birth parents' rights have been terminated. And while we celebrate the creation of adoptive families, another family including extended family members, have experienced a loss. Despite the challenges children have faced in their birth homes, they still have a connection to people or things from their

past... parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, pets, neighborhoods....

I am deeply appreciative of the efforts of so many of our foster and adoptive families who work so hard with the children in their homes to help them honor their pasts through good-bye visits, updating and sharing life books and encouraging ongoing dialogue with children about where they came from and what their family was like when appropriate. All of these things empower children to move on positively into the future. If you know a foster or adoptive parent, join me in thanking them for their efforts. They so often go unrecognized. And if you have ever given a thought to adopting, call us! We need you now more than ever. With your help, there is hope.

Calvin



Calvin is an energetic five year old that needs a family to call his own. Calvin likes to play outdoors. He likes to play with trucks and is especially fascinated with shoes.

Calvin has had to overcome many trials in his short life. Calvin has been diagnosed with autism, moderate mental retardation and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Calvin needs a family that will be able to give him a lot of love and attention. Although Calvin continues to have challenges, he is making progress in his current foster home. Continuing special services will be important to Calvin's development.

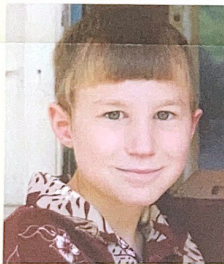
If you think you may be the family for Calvin, please contact Jana Howell, Adoption Caseworker, at Greene County Children Services. Jana can be reached at 937-562-6600, ext. 694.

Issue 21

Issue 21 is the Greene County Children Services Levy. It is a one mill replacement and a .5 mill additional levy on the November 4th ballot. Please remember to vote on November 4th.



Joey



Joey is twelve years old, and in the sixth grade. He likes to be outdoors. A few of Joey's favorite things to do are skateboard, bike ride, run and explore in the woods. Joey talks a lot about wanting to live on a farm and take care of animals but knows that it may be hard to find a family that can provide that. He would like a family with siblings and a pet.

Joey is currently involved in therapy to help him make positive choices in life. He will need a family that is able to provide him with consistent structure and supervision as he continues to work through some significant issues.

Joey really wants to be adopted. He wishes it wouldn't take so long to find his forever family. If you think you may be the family for Joey, please contact Jana Howell, Adoption Caseworker, at 937-562-6600, ext. 694.



Hello, my name is Mariah, and I am eleven years old. I have a sweet disposition and like to smile a lot. I enjoy singing and dancing all around the house. My favorite country singer is Kenny Chesney,

and my favorite television show is Survivor. My foster mother says that I should be in the school drama club when I get older!

I do well in school. I really enjoy playing soccer, cheerleading and roller skating. I am also in the Girl Scouts. Continuing to be active is important to me.

My forever family needs to know that I am a diabetic and have rheumatoid arthritis. I can manage my diabetes with the help of adults. I have frequent clinic visits that will likely need to continue. It would be great

if my forever family had some experience with my medical conditions.

I have been in the same foster home for four years. I really want to continue contact with my foster mother. She is very special to me.

If you would like to know more information about me, you can call my Adoption Caseworker, Jana Howell, at Greene County Children Services. Her telephone number is (937) 562-6600, ext. 694.

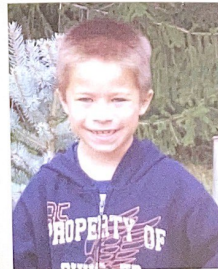
David

David is a very loving and charming seven year old. He enjoys swimming and bike riding. David is helpful and enjoys assisting his foster mother with tasks. David is excited to be in the first grade this school year. His teachers describe him as happy in the classroom and enjoying the time he spends with his friends.

David likes to be with his foster mother and enjoys her attention. His foster parents are currently working with David to become more independent.

David attends therapy as he continues to process events from his past. He will continue to need this support as he transitions into an adoptive home.

If you think you may be the family for David, please contact Jana Howell, Adoption Caseworker, at 937-562-6600, ext. 694.



Quendale



My name is Quendale, and I am 13 years old. I love playing sports, especially football and basketball. I think I am easy going, but may be a little quiet until I get to know you. I make friends easily. I enjoy school and maintain good grades.

My foster family is great, and I feel very comfortable in their home. I am nervous about having to make a transition into a new family but am becoming more open to the idea. I need a committed family that will stick with me through thick and thin.

While at home, I like to help out around the house. I enjoy my foster family's dog, who is a Boxer.



ADOPTION

4 Things You Should Know

Once a child has been legally made available for adoption, birth parents cannot claim a child or petition for their return

One-third of children adopted from foster care in 2005 were adopted by single parents or unmarried couples

23 percent of adopted children live with an adoptive parent 55 years or older

Foster care adoption is not expensive, and there is financial support available

I have told my adoption worker that I would like an adoptive family with a pet. If you would like more information about me, please contact my adoption caseworker, Jana Howell, at 937-562-6600 ext. 694.

Look for these
topics in our
next issue

News on Child Abuse Preven-
tion Month and Pinwheels for
Prevention

Our quarterly Spotlight on
Adoption

Coverage of our First Annual
Bee for Children



Friends of Children Services Hosts First Annual *Bee for Children*

On January 9th at 8:00a.m., the Friends of Greene County Children Services, a non-profit organization, will host a breakfast spelling bee at the Schindler Center in Xenia. The "*Bee for Children*" will pit adults against school kids in an entertaining spell-off that will raise funds for child abuse prevention in Greene County. Currently, "Friends" is looking for both teams and team sponsorships.

Teams will consist of three spellers and one alternate. The cost for each three-person team or team sponsorship will be a donation of \$250. Trophies will be awarded to the winning teams. The bee will also feature a silent auction and breakfast buffet. The cost to attend the "*Bee for Children*" will be \$12 and includes breakfast.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, being a team or sponsoring one, please contact Friends of Children Service at friendsofgccs@yahoo.com or call 562-6600, ext. 555.

GOING "GREENE"

The Children's Herald would like to go "Greene" and become solely an electronic newsletter. But, we can't do it without your email addresses. Please send your email address to kunklj@odjfs.state.oh.us so we can put you on our electronic newsletter list. We'd like our next issue to be our last paper issue. Thank you!



601 Ledbetter Rd. Xenia, OH 45385
937.562.6600 fax 937.562.6650
www.greencsb.org

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON OH
PERMIT 41