

Giving Hope and Support to America's Children



2007 Annual Report

Deputy Director: Brenda J. Gilreath

2007 Accomplishments:

Collections: It was another record year for child support collections. Child Support Enforcement (CSE) collected \$37,869,099.31 in support payments. Of that amount, the tax offset program garnered \$1,530,468.70; collections on criminal nonsupport cases totaled \$1,083,710.64, financial institution freeze-and-seize collections amounted to \$119,786.38; and collections on driver's license suspensions totaled \$523,079.48.

Hearings: In 2007, CSE conducted 802 internal hearings and participated in 4,942 judicial hearings. Additionally, 414 lump sum orders resulted in \$141,578.38 intercepted for past due child support. The collections are primarily from employers and employee benefit plans.

State Recognition: For the third year in a row, the CSE was honored by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Child Support, with two performance awards: "Overall Top Percentage Performer," large caseload division and "Highest Percentage for Paternities Established," large caseload division. The large caseload division includes counties who have caseloads ranging from 15,000 to 19,000 cases.

CSE Fiscal Support Officer, Annette E. Black, was honored with the Ohio CSEA Director's Association Excellence Award for Outstanding Child Support Supervisor. Annette was nominated by the financial unit staff as a result of her efforts associated with Ohio e-QuickPay, Child Support Month, and the CSE's website, ClermontSupportsKids.org.

Amnesty: For the third year, amnesty was offered to obligors in July in preparation for the Child Support Roundup held annually in August. The child support agency suspended or withdrew legal action pending on cases, including driver license suspensions, bench warrants, and contempt citations for those individuals who made significant payments toward their arrearage and who provided employment information or agreed to utilize the services of the local Business & Workforce Resource Center. This year, CSE collected \$60,617.57 in amnesty payments during July on 114 cases, with a total of \$130,303.89 collected by year end. These collections exceeded those for each of the previous 2 years that amnesty was offered.

2007 Child Support Month Celebration: The 2007 Child Support Month theme and graphic design, "Giving Hope and Support to America's Children," was unveiled in August to promote program awareness. It was selected and utilized by Ohio CSE Directors' Association for their 2008 annual training conference, following on the heels of our 2006 advertising theme and graphic design, "Love & Support Go Hand in Hand," which was recognized statewide when utilized by the Ohio CSE Directors' Association during their 2007 annual training conference.

Because of the generous donations of staff and local businesses, CSE was able to increase its efforts to bring a positive message to the public during Child Support Month. Ten randomly selected families in need were recipients of family fun packages which included \$10 gas cards, Cincinnati Reds Tickets and food vouchers, or

Cincinnati Zoo tickets and parking passes. As an additional part of our public outreach activities held during August, CSE sponsored their second annual coloring contest for kids. Ninety children participated in the competition. During an awards ceremony, winners were presented with a certificate, crayons and/or markers, and a McDonalds' gift certificate. (1st place \$25.00, 2nd place \$10.00, and 3rd place \$5.00). Other prizes given away included: three back packs full of school supplies, a gift certificate towards the purchase of a bicycle, portable DVD player and video games, four \$5.00 gas cards, and a serenity water fountain. All family members who attended enjoyed cake, cookies, water bottles, and juice boxes.

CSE continues to sponsor educational programs for pregnant and parenting teens through Grant Career Center. Programs include a seminar which reinforces math and reading skills, while providing stress relief and introducing intergenerational activities and socialization skills for teen parents.

Most Wanted Campaign: The sixth annual Roundup was a collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Office, the Court of Common Pleas, the Prosecutor's Office, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts, and Child Support Enforcement. As a result of the dedication of the Sheriff's office, 149 warrants were resolved during August. Of that total amount, 120 individuals were apprehended, 12 warrants were withdrawn for compliance, and 17 holders were processed with other various institutions for most wanted individuals who were incarcerated elsewhere on unrelated charges. In addition, Child Support Enforcement collected \$37,233.17 as a result of the apprehensions during August alone, with a total of \$93,539.42 by year end. The total collected from amnesty and the roundup programs reached an all time high in 2007 and it continues to be one of the best dual programs in the state.

The annual most wanted Poster was published which featured nine non-custodial parents who owed combined arrearages of \$104,163.58. Only two of the nine individuals published on the poster remain wanted. Over 50,000 flyers featuring three most wanted individuals (indicted on criminal nonsupport charges) were included in Clermont County Water and Sewer bills. All three individuals were apprehended.

In addition to the Roundup, information about most wanted child support offenders was aired on local cable television, published in local newspapers, and placed on the CSE agency website, clermontsupportskids.org.

With the assistance of the Office of Public Information, two cable television segments were produced for Child Support Month, one focusing on most wanted activities and another on the importance of establishing paternity for children born out of wedlock. July and August continue to be two of the busiest months here at CSE because of the wide variety of successful activities conducted by the agency to find and apprehend individuals who fail to pay their child support. We appreciate the help of all our local partners in helping make these activities a success.

2007 Statistics as of 12/31/2007:

Clermontsupportskids.org website hits: 39,758
Telephone calls received to Main Customer Service Line: 288,096
Criminal Nonsupport/Diversion/Probation Cases: 542
Interstate Cases: 866
Paternity Establishment/Pre Order Cases: 1,671
Third Party/Caretaker Enforcement Cases: 1,441
Enforcement Caseload: 13,187
Total Case Count: 14,878

During Federal Fiscal Year 2007 this office served 43,339 individuals (28,166 adults and 15,173 children). All our staff are dedicated to continue the work we do of helping to serve the families of Clermont County.