

Child Support Makes Dreams a Possibility



2008 Annual Report

Deputy Director: Brenda J. Gilreath

2008 Accomplishments

Collections: It was another record year for child support collections. Child Support Enforcement (CSE) collected \$38,348,614.00 in support payments. Of that amount, the tax offset program garnered \$2,590,388.33, collections on criminal nonsupport cases totaled \$1,082,743.45, financial institution freeze-and-seize collections amounted to 192,515.44, and collections on driver's license suspensions totaled \$400,670.87. Additionally, 512 lump sum orders resulted in 203,277.01 intercepted for past due child support. Lump sum collections are primarily from employers and employee benefit plans.

Hearings: In 2008, CSE conducted 844 internal hearings and participated in 4,324 judicial hearings.

Recognition: The National Association of Counties (NACo) recognized Clermont County for technological innovations designed to improve child support collections. CSE initiated a partnership with several county departments; including Juvenile Court and the Office of Technology, Communications and Security; to create a paperless case processing system. CSE was also the recipient of two statewide performance awards: best overall performance and best performance in paternity establishment for a large county. This was the fourth consecutive year that CSE received these two performance awards. Clermont County's Criminal Non-Support Diversion Program was recognized as one of the Ten Best Practices in Ohio at the Ohio Child Support Director's Association fall conference; this is a collaborative program administered by Common Pleas Court, the Prosecutor's Office, and CSE.

Amnesty: For the fourth year, amnesty was offered to obligors in July in preparation for the Child Support Roundup held annually in August; a total of \$27,704.10 was collected in July, with a total of \$84,609.11 by year end.

2008 Child Support Month Celebration: The 2008 Child Support Month theme and graphic design, "Child Support Makes Dreams a Possibility," was unveiled in August. The graphic design was created

to promote CSE's public message: Children are the future—they dream of being doctors, nurses, artists, firemen, policemen, dancers, movie stars, teachers, and heroes. Making their hearts' desires a reality demands a network of dedicated parents, custodians, educators, and community organizations. Clermont County Child Support Enforcement plays a vital role in providing financial security by assisting families in meeting the monetary and medical support needs of their children. The services we provide help make children's dreams come true.

CSE sponsored a number of events aimed at increasing awareness about the importance of the program and to bring special attention and fun to the children in our community who do without so often during the year. An awards ceremony was held to recognize the winners of the third annual coloring contest for kids. In addition, winners were selected through a drawing for nine book bags filled with school supplies. Seven \$10.00 gas cards and a table full of stuffed animals and school supplies were given out during the ceremony as door prizes. The agency recognized individuals who paid their accounts in full and employers who provide support services to the program. Treat bags and balloons were given to all children who visited the office. As a result of generous donations from the Cincinnati Reds and the Cincinnati Zoo, tickets were given to families to attend a Reds game in July and free passes were given away in August to visit the Zoo. Four teens graduating from high school were awarded gift certificates to assist them with entering the job market, furthering their education, and helping with their independent living needs. The agency also sponsored an education program benefiting pregnant and parenting teens. The objective of this initiative is to assist these young parents with their graduation goals while allowing those teens to parent.

Most Wanted Campaign: The seventh 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, deputies arrested 108 offenders, 23 were located in other correctional institutions on unrelated charges, and four warrants were withdrawn for compliance. CSE received \$22,620.67 in past due support payments on these accounts in August, with a total of \$49,113.68 by year end.

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.

CSE sends their sincere appreciation to all of the local partners, the area businesses, and the public for their support and participation with the 2008 Child Support Month Activities.

2008 Statistics as of 12/31/08:

ClermontSupportsKids.org website hits: 42,585
Telephone calls received to Main Customer Service Line: 258,550
Criminal Nonsupport Diversion Cases: 352
Interstate Cases: 824
Paternity Establishment/Pre Order Cases: 1,422
Third Party/Caretaker Enforcement Cases: 478
Enforcement Caseload: 13,426
Total Case Count: 14,860