



PROTECT ♦ STABILIZE
STRENGTHEN ♦ ENCOURAGE
2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends:

I am proud to present our 2012 Annual Report. Despite a tough economic environment and the increased needs of our customers, we maintained a focus on those we serve and had many successful accomplishments. Below and throughout this report you will see some of our many efforts and initiatives that have been successful in supporting the Stark County community.

Stark County, along with the entire State, focused on the requirement for recipients of cash assistance to participate in work activities. Our diligence and teamwork were successful and we accomplished what seemed like an unachievable goal and avoided Federal sanctions in Ohio. SCJFS was recognized by Director Michael Colbert, of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) for our role in helping Ohio meet and exceed those requirements.

Our Children Services Division was chosen through a competitive application process to join 33 Ohio counties in the Differential Response initiative. This initiative permits a new way to investigate child abuse and/or neglect through a strength based model with enhanced family engagement. We focus on connections with community resources and supports to keep families together and children safe.

The Children Services Division was also awarded a grant through ODJFS and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption called Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK). The core belief of the WWK project is that every child deserves a safe, loving and permanent family. The grant provides funding for two full-time Child-Focused Recruiters, and nearly half of our children who have been assigned through the WWK initiative have been matched with adoptive homes.

Last fall, our Child Support Enforcement Division was one of eight agencies chosen nationwide for a five-year federal grant to assist long-term unemployed non-custodial parents. The grant, called the Right Path for Fathers is worth approximately \$500,000 per year. Through multiple collaborations and partnerships, we will work to help long-term unemployed non-custodial parents overcome barriers to employment, obtain a job, and make consistent, dependable support payments to their families.

In 2013 we will continue our many initiatives, partnerships and collaborative efforts to "Protect, Stabilize, Strengthen and Encourage" our customers and improve the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,

Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW
Executive Director

STARK COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Stark County Family Services Planning Committee provides recommendations to Stark County Job and Family Services for the most effective and efficient delivery of services.

The committee is presently comprised of 19 members who represent the agency, professionals from the community and the general public.

Patricia Croskey
Chairperson

R. Scott White
Vice-Chairperson

Mary Lou Sekula
Secretary

Julie Barnes
SCJFS Executive Director

Members

Mary Ann Abel
Amanda Anderson

Tyne M. Brannan
Ann Durkin
Patrice Fetzer

Michael Flood
Kristen Guardado
Eric Henderson

Rebecca A. Marchino
Laura C. McIntyre
Sherri McKinney-Frantz
John Petit
Rebecca Stallman
Diane C. Thompson
Daphne E. Thomson
Erica Wilson-Domer

Stark County Commissioners

Tom Bernabei
Janet Weir Creighton
Richard Regula

SCJFS Executive Team

Julie Barnes, M.Ed., L.S.W.
Executive Director

Susan Lenigar
Deputy Director,
Human Services Division

Rob Pierson
Deputy Director,
Child Support Enforcement
Division

Nedra Petro, M.P.A., L.S.W.
Deputy Director,
Children Services Division

Jane Bethel, C.P.A.
Deputy Director,
Finance

Valarie A. Nash
Deputy Director,
Human Resources &
Support Services

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Children Services Division

8

Child Support Enforcement Division

11

Human Services Division

14

In Our Community

17

Finance

21

Contact Information

22

IF YOU WANT TO LIFT YOURSELF UP, LIFT UP SOMEONE ELSE.

- BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, EDUCATOR, AUTHOR, ORATOR, AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR



Each year, SCJFS' Employee Enhancement Committee chooses a philanthropic project. In 2012 it was Autism Speaks. More than 30 employees joined "SCJFS Teaming Up for Autism" and raised nearly \$1500 for Autism Speaks. Employees pictured here the morning of the walk: (left-right) Jennifer Snyder, Raquel Beninghof, Dorothy Dittimore, Tracy Pedani, Ruth Anne Frank, Karen Beard, Vicki Picone, Jennifer Mohler, Jaqui Petro, and team captain, Angela Blatz. The fundraiser was sponsored by the Employee Enhancement Committee.

PROTECT

CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO LIVE UP TO WHAT YOU BELIEVE OF THEM.

- LADY BIRD JOHNSON, FORMER U.S. FIRST LADY



In 2012, Wear Blue became a statewide awareness campaign. Wear Blue takes place on the second Wednesday of every April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue that day - to work, to school, to a community event - to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect. The child abuse prevention campaign was created in Stark County in 2011. Local businesses and organizations take photos of staff who are wearing blue and post them to SCJFS' social media pages: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. (Left-right) Darlene Terry, case manager, Child Support Enforcement; Julius Johnson case manager, Child Support Enforcement; Beth Turner, Training Supervisor; James Dyer case manager, Child Support Enforcement; and Stephanie Bagnoli case manager, Child Support Enforcement.

CHILDREN SERVICES

Nedra Petro, Deputy Director

6,177 calls to the Report Line resulted in **2,829** reports of child abuse and/or neglect.

47% were calls reporting suspected neglect.

36% were calls reporting suspected physical abuse.

14% were calls reporting suspected sexual abuse.

3% were calls reporting suspected emotional maltreatment.

337 Additional calls to the report line resulted in assistance to families.

240 were calls of families in need of services.

97 were calls about children who were determined to be dependent

Alternative Response

Alternative Response (AR), an approach that provides for a second or alternative pathway of response to reports of alleged abuse/neglect was initiated in April 2012. Over the course of the eight month period, April to December, an increasing number of cases were directed to AR. Of the 2,124 cases screened in from April to December, 357 or 16.8% were responded to using the AR approach.

Ongoing Supportive Services

In an average month, **370** families received case management and supportive services.

Children who could not remain safely in their own homes were provided placement services - *average children/month*:

195 Agency Foster Care

106 Purchased Foster Care

16 Group Homes

18 Residential Placement

91 Kinship or Relative Home

Transitional Youth Services

136 youth received independent living services.

43 previously emancipated youth received services.

Foster Care/Adoption

197 licensed foster families (Average/Month)

53 finalized adoptions

Adult Protective Services

SCJFS contracted with Trillium Family Solutions to provide services.

338 new cases of elder abuse/neglect or exploitation

The Children Services Division is legally responsible for taking reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency; investigating reports; and acting to protect children at risk of harm.

The Children Services Division also recruits and trains foster and adoptive families, prepares children for adoption, arranges for post-adoption services to families, and provides training in independent living skills for older teens.

**ONE OF THE DEEP
SECRETS OF LIFE IS THAT
ALL THAT IS REALLY
WORTH DOING IS WHAT
WE DO FOR OTHERS.**

- LEWIS CAROL, WRITER, MATHEMATICIAN, LOGICIAN



SCJFS depends on Project KARE, a 501c3 charitable organization to provide some of the events and services that the agency cannot afford. Project KARE purchases birthday and Christmas presents for abused/neglected children and provides funding for special events such as Rising Up, Moving On, the Foster Parent Recognition Banquet and a Fall Harvest Party for foster and adoptive families. Pictured here at the Fall Harvest Party are social service workers Rebecca Lewis, Susan Poda, Kenna Hall and Elizabeth Parsons.

STABILIZE

THERE IS A SPIRITUAL ASPECT TO OUR LIVES – WHEN WE GIVE WE RECEIVE – WHEN A BUSINESS DOES SOMETHING GOOD FOR SOMEBODY, THAT SOMEBODY FEELS GOOD ABOUT THEM!

- BEN COHEN, CO-FOUNDER, BEN & JERRY'S



In August, 38 individuals cleared 49 child support warrants with the support of Stark County Family Court Judges at a local Child Support Amnesty event. The 64 individuals who attended the event represented more than \$500,000 in arrearages. The event was sponsored by the Stark County Family Court, in cooperation with the SCJFS' Child Support Enforcement Division, the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Association of Stark County. (Left-right) Rick DeHeer, Court Administrator, Stark County Family Court; Robert Prince, Life Images Program Director, Life Ministries Church; and Rob Pierson, Deputy Director of Child Support Enforcement, SCJFS.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Rob Pierson, Deputy Director

Average number of case: **33,675**

Collections for the year: **\$62,895,175**

Paternity Establishment: **97.22%** of cases needing paternity

Support Orders Established: **87.32%** of cases needing support established

Collections on Current Support: **70.89%** of current support owed

Collections on Arrearages: **66.51%** of cases owed arrearages

Paternity Cases scheduled for DNA testing: **641**

Cases referred for Support Establishment: **1,207**

Court Hearings scheduled/attended by Legal Department: **3,864**

Phone Calls received by Customer Service: **84,453** total calls for the year; monthly average of **7,038** calls.

Customers served in the CSEA Lobby: **11,769** for the year; monthly average of **981** customers.

In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012, SCJFS' Child Support Enforcement Division finished **first among Ohio's metro counties for the Performance Incentive Category of Current Collections** with **70.89 percent**. The agency achieved its **highest percentage ever** for Support Establishment with **87.32 percent**. That is an increase of more than 20 percent since FFY 2005.

In 2012 the Child Support Division was **one of the top ten counties in Ohio (7th) for cost effectiveness**. During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 Stark County collected **\$21.36** for every administrative dollar spent. This increased the FFY 2011 cost effectiveness rate by **\$5.72**.

The Child Support Enforcement Division is committed to providing quality child support services, including:

- Establishing paternity and support
- Issuing orders for medical support
- Modifying support orders
- Enforcing support orders
- Monitoring collections
- Disbursement of support payments.
- Termination of current support when a child emancipates.

In 2012, the Child Support Enforcement Division was chosen to receive a Federal Grant to assist long term unemployed non-custodial parents. Stark County was one of just eight programs selected nationwide to receive funding for this type of demonstration project. The grant is for a five-year period with a value of approximately \$500,000 per year. This local project, named Right Path for Fathers Partnership, is designed to help long-term unemployed noncustodial parents overcome barriers to employment, obtain a job, and make consistent, dependable support payments to their families.

IF WE DO NOT LAY OUT OURSELVES IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND WHOM SHOULD WE SERVE?

- JOHN ADAMS, SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



Michael Colbert, Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services visited SCJFS in March and June to applaud the agency for its employees' role in exceeding Work Participation Rate requirements. Ohio's counties were required to collectively meet WPR standards greater than 50 percent to avoid possible sanctions of up to \$130 million against the State's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) budget allocation. (Left-right) Susan Lenigar, Deputy Director, SCJFS Human Services; Julie Barnes, Executive Director, SCJFS; ODJFS Director Michael Colbert; Mel Erbland, Supervisor and Valarie Nash, Deputy Director, Human Resources and Support Services.

STRENGTHEN

**IT IS NOT THE STRONGEST
OF THE SPECIES THAT
SURVIVES, NOR THE MOST
INTELLIGENT, BUT THE
ONE MOST RESPONSIVE
TO CHANGE.**

- CHARLES DARWIN, ENGLISH NATURALIST AND SCIENTIST



SCJFS' Human Services Division staff and Bridges Committee facilitated more than 50 Community Workshops in 2012. Workshop topics covered Medicaid Spend Down and On-Line Applications. Staff also coordinated SARTA Travel Trainings, a nutrition course through the Ohio State Extension Office, United Way's 2-1-1, Early Childhood Resource Center information session and a couponing workshop. Staff also hosted a Senior Citizens Forum that drew more than 300 participants. Pictured here is Human Services Training Specialist Christi Drlik (left) at the Senior Citizens Forum.

HUMAN SERVICES

Susan Lenigar, Deputy Director

The following are monthly averages.

Food Assistance Program

60,695 individuals received food assistance at some point in 2012. This is about **1 out of 6 people** in Stark County.

Medicaid

A total of **71,513** individuals received Medicaid assistance in 2012. These programs include Age, Blind, & Disabled (ABD) Medicaid and family Medicaid programs such as Healthy Start/Healthy Families.

11,555 individuals received ABD Medicaid

51,402 individuals received Covered Family and Children's Medicaid

1,094 individuals received Medicaid through Foster Care Adoption Assistance

3,536 received Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) or Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB). These programs are federal Medicare Savings Programs which help low income elders and younger Medicare beneficiaries access Medicare benefits.

Cash Assistance

5,118 individuals received Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance.

438 individuals received Disability Financial Assistance (DFA). DFA is a cash assistance program intended for individuals who have pending applications for SSI/SSDI, but have been determined to be disabled by the State.

Child Care

4,269 children were cared for in 2012 through publicly funded child care.

JOBS

There were **40** Work Experience Program (WEP) participants hired through program assignments in 2012.

88 Job Club attendees employed within 30 days of Job Club.

30 Job Club attendees employed within 60 days of Job Club.

12 Job Club attendees employed within 90 days of Job Club.

A total of **130** hired out of Job Club for the year 2012.

The Human Services Division provides Ohio Works First cash assistance; medical assistance; food assistance; and job-related services including subsidized child care to eligible individuals and families in Stark County.

In 2012, it is estimated that Human Services Division programs injected more than **\$700 million** into the Stark County community. Local grocers, hospitals, clinics and retailers benefit from funds distributed through these programs:

Medicaid

\$697,705,892*

Food Assistance

\$95,146,214

OWF Cash Assistance

\$11,273,644

Disability Assistance

\$987,521

Child Care Assistance

\$11,129,119

**Estimated amounts based on the average of actual amounts from Jan. to Oct. 2012.*

LIFE'S MOST URGENT QUESTION IS: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?

- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. , AMERICAN CLERGYMAN, ACTIVIST AND LEADER



Each January, Stark County Job & Family Services' employees volunteer for the Point-in-Time Homeless Count. The week-long count is organized by the Stark County Homeless Services Collaborative in conjunction with many local community service providers. Many agencies and organizations participate in the count, which is required by Department of Housing and Urban Development. SCJFS Employees take shifts to administer the survey in all agency lobbies during business hours. The combined results of the surveys provide a snapshot of the number of homeless in Stark County which determines future housing funds allocated to Stark.

ENCOURAGE

ALWAYS DO MORE THAN IS REQUIRED OF YOU.

- *GEORGE PATTON, FORMER GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY*



SCJFS employees spend countless hours every year serving on local boards and volunteering for local events. In November, SCJFS employees volunteered to hand out groceries and serve dinner at Turnaround Community Outreach's Thanksgiving Giveaway. Pictured second from left is Tywana Brantley, eligibility referral specialist.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Community Education/Speaking Engagements

- Canton Salvation Army
- Massillon Middle School Community Fair
- Carnation Mall Safety Day
- Stark County Fair
- St. Paul's (N. Canton) Family Health Fair
- Mercy Medical Center Health Fair
- Safe Kids Coalition's "Safe Kids Day"
- Five local YMCA's "Healthy Kids Day"
- Massillon FunFest
- Malone University Health Fair
- Hartford Middle School Harvest Fair
- Project Homeless Connect
- Back to School Fair (Canton)
- Hartville Migrant Camp
- Plain Rotary
- Canton South Rotary
- St. Barbara's (Massillon)
- Ohio Benefit Bank

Employee Engagement

- Employees participated in Safety Week.
- Staff donated more than 40 pints of blood to Aultman's Blood Donation Program.
- SCJFS' Autism Speaks, "The DiaBeaters" raised nearly \$1,500.
- United Way's Annual Campaign - Employees contributed a total of \$8,193.52.
- Back-to-School Drive benefitting Project KARE.

Community Partnerships

- Leadership Stark County's "TANF Town Simulation"
- Point-in-Time Homeless Count
- Stark County Fatherhood Coalition
- Participated in 7 local job fairs
- Project KARE's 2012 Rising Up...Moving On
- Foster Parent Recognition Banquet
- Junior Achievement
- Wear Blue
- Senior Citizens Forum
- Project Homeless Connect
- Timken High School's Career Day, "Dress for Success"

Employee Diversity Initiatives

- Employee Brown Bag Luncheon Series:
 - HandPrints, Sign Choir
 - Domestic Violence Project
 - How to Handle Trauma
 - Refuge of Hope
- 60 employees donated personal time to serve lunch at Canton Salvation Army during summer months.
- 8th Annual SCJFS Cultural Diversity Employee Luncheon – "Dishing Up Diversity"

SCJFS has four agency-wide committees:

- Employee Enhancement
- Cultural Diversity
- Emergency & Safety
- Public Relations

Committee members plan many seasonal events including "Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day," the Cultural Diversity Luncheon, Brown Bag Diversity Lunches, Safety Week and the Employee Recognition Luncheon, which last year raised funds for Autism Speaks.

SOCIAL MEDIA

SCJFS uses Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube and the Vine to post information about programs, services, workshops, upcoming events and current job listings.

Find Us @



facebook.com/SCJFS



@StarkCountyJFS



StarkCountyJFS



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WE CANNOT HOLD A TORCH TO LIGHT ANOTHER'S PATH WITHOUT BRIGHTENING OUR OWN.

- BEN SWEETLAND, AUTHOR



Each June, the agency recognizes youth who are graduating high school and from the foster care system. The event, "Rising Up, Moving On," is a time for social service workers to share special experiences and future ambitions for foster youth. The event is made possible through Project KARE, a 501c3 charitable organization that benefits Stark County's foster youth. In 2012, 24 youth graduated from local high schools and two more earned college degrees. (Pictured left, is social services worker Andy Fussell and two of his foster youth.

PROTECT ♦ STABILIZE
STRENGTHEN ♦ ENCOURAGE



THERE ARE NO TRAFFIC JAMS ALONG THE EXTRA MILE.

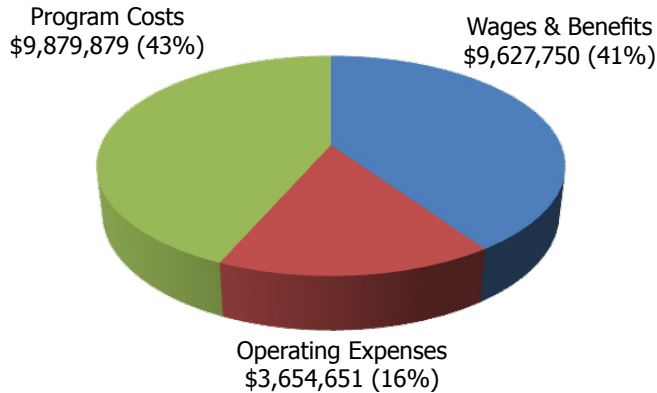
- ROGER STAUBACH, HALL OF FAME QUARTERBACK, DALLAS COWBOYS



The Agency's Cultural Diversity Committee engages and educates staff to be culturally sensitive to customers and one another. Committee members organize informative brown bag lunches, initiate agency-wide diversity training and host an annual Diversity Luncheon. Pictured here (left-right), eligibility referral specialist Tywana Brantley, supervisor Taranna Francisco, supervisor Freeda Palmer, social service worker Alisa Grass and supervisor Diana Frieden serve lunch during the Cultural Diversity Committee sponsored, Salvation Army Summer Initiative.

FINANCE

Children Services Division

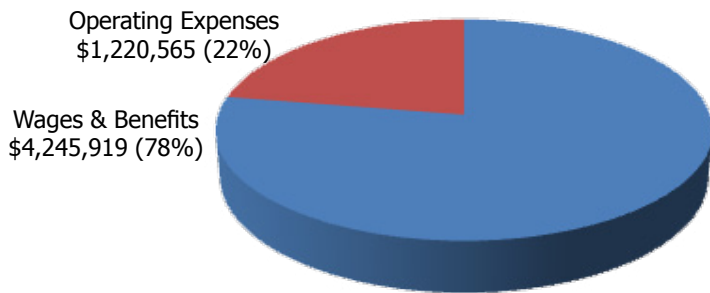


Most benefits are paid directly to our customers through federal and state funding and are not included in our financial statements. Our costs are primarily operational costs to administer the programs.

State and federal governments are re-evaluating priorities and trying to balance their budgets.

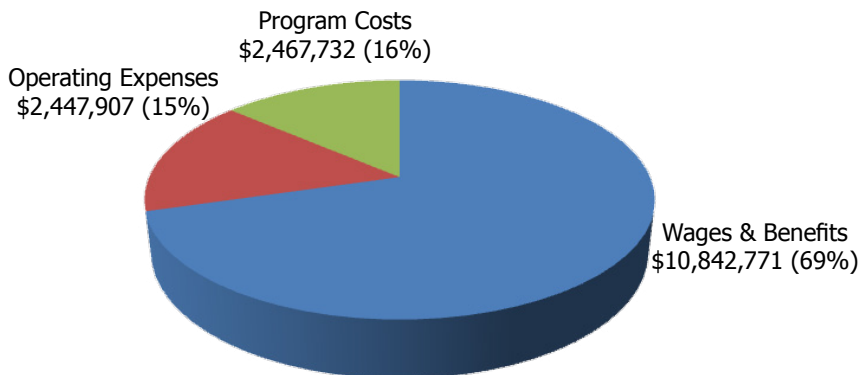
Local government funding is changing rapidly based on the changes made by the state and federal governments. The Finance Department is responsible for projecting how changes will impact the agency's budget.

Child Support Enforcement Division



SCJFS' Executive Team relies on quick and effective communication of these projections in order to make decisions on how the agency delivers services to its customers, currently and in the future.

Human Services Division



2012 Agency Total
\$43,757,545

**PERHAPS THE GREATEST
SOCIAL SERVICE THAT
CAN BE RENDERED
BY ANYBODY TO THE
COUNTRY AND TO
MANKIND IS TO BRING
UP A FAMILY..**

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, LITERARY CRITIC, PLAYWRIGHT AND ESSAYIST



To celebrate National Adoption Month, Stark County Job & Family Services, Children Services Division and Project KARE partner with the Canton Art Community to raise awareness of the critical need for adoptive families in the community. The Stark County Heart Gallery "Art with a Heart" exhibit features local children currently waiting for an adoptive family and travels throughout Stark County during the month of November. The agency also creates an adoption calendar, which is used as a foster/adoptive family recruitment tool in the subsequent year.

STARK COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

Children Services Division

300 Market Ave. North
Canton, OH 44702

Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:

(330)455-KIDS

Foster/Adopt

(330)451-8789

www.StarkAdoptFoster.com

Child Support Division

122 Cleveland Ave. N.W.

P.O. Box 21337

Canton, OH 44701

Customer Service

(330)451-8930

Human Services Division

221 3rd Street S.E.

Canton, OH 44702

Cash, Food & Medical Assistance

Customer Service Call Center

(330)451-8861

Customer Service e-mail:

stark_csc@odjfs.state.oh.us

New Applications

(330)451-8500

Directory Assistance

(330)452-4661

JOBS/Child Care

(330)452-4661

Mission

To partner with our customers, community and other service providers to protect children and vulnerable adults, stabilize and strengthen families, and encourage self sufficiency and personal responsibility.

Executive Director

Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW

SCJFS 2012 Annual report is a publication of Stark County Job & Family Services.

If you have questions or comments, contact Bill Burgess at (330)451-8869 or e-mail burgew@odjfs.state.oh.us.



www.starkjfs.org





MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

