



Franklin County
**Children
Services**

Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

Media Release

For Immediate Release

March 2009

Social Work: An Honorable Profession

March is *National Social Work Month*

As the economy and other factors add problems to families who may already be in crisis, social workers are often there to provide some much needed assistance. Although social work is a helping profession, sometimes those who are busy helping others need time to take care of themselves. That is why Franklin County Children Services is pleased to celebrate March as National Social Work Month and acknowledge the work of its staff in protecting children by strengthening families.

In observing, each Friday in March, a series of health awareness and education opportunities will be held at each agency location. "Once again we are celebrating with a series of "*All About Me Days*," stated Eric Fenner, Executive Director of Franklin County Children Services. "These days will allow us to take a small amount of time from our busy schedules to pay attention to our health and well-being."

Fenner also stated that the hard work and resiliency of the agency's staff has yielded some outstanding accomplishments on behalf of children and families. "Specifically, we are now experiencing the lowest number of children in paid care in 12 years and the lowest number of children on our caseload in 10 years," he stated.

"Helping attribute to this success has been the agency's new approach of protecting children by strengthening families, which directs staff to look first to providing all services needed to keep a family together whenever safely possible for the child, before considering placement." Fenner feels that when children are placed away from family, workers are encouraged to do everything possible to make sure meaningful visitation takes place, so that children can be reunited with their families as soon as possible.

For further
information
contact
**Joetta
McCruter-
Polk, 614-
341-6017**

more

“Although these initiatives may be more time intensive and require the creative use of resources, it allows our staff to fully utilize their expertise in social work,” said Fenner.

Franklin County Children Services employs more than 300 social workers who provide protection to children and youths from abuse and neglect; and to assure that children have safe, permanent homes. Each social worker carries an estimated 15 families on their caseload and logs in approximately 200 miles per week traveling from client to client, to see children in placement and to meet with various community resources. More than 28,000 children in Franklin County each year receive services through Franklin County Children Services. To learn more about Franklin County Children Services go to our website www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services.

#