

Stark County Job & Family Services

HUMAN SERVICES - CHILDREN SERVICES - CHILD SUPPORT

221 3rd Street S.E., Canton, Ohio 44702

Deborah Forkas, M.Ed - Executive Director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STARK COUNTY JFS STAFF MEMBER EARNS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job & Family Services is proud to announce that staff member Kourtney Hill has been recognized at the state level for her work in the agency and in the community. The Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) presented her with the award of *Outstanding Support Staff of the Year* during a virtual conference held on September 16, 2020.

PCSAO's outstanding staff awards acknowledge work performed at a public children services agency that goes beyond expectations and achieves extraordinary outcomes for children and families in the community. Ms. Hill works within the Division of Children Services and was chosen for her efforts in the permanency program area.

"We are fortunate to have such a talented and hard-working staff member on our team," said Deborah Forkas M.Ed, Executive Director of Stark County Job and Family Services. "Kourtney is 100% dedicated to the children and families of Stark County, and it is evident in her work. She definitely goes above and beyond all expectations."

Ms. Hill has been employed with Stark County Job and Family Services since 2010. She currently serves as a Unit Support Worker, processing financial data for several programs within the agency. Through her foster and adoption recruitment efforts, she often works directly with families and children in our community. She is responsible for managing the Division of Children Services' recruitment Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StarkFosterAdopt, coordinating adoption photo shoots, and designing the foster parent newsletter.

Additionally, Ms. Hill is an organizing member of the agency's annual Heart Gallery Stark County, a large display of artwork that brings awareness about the waiting children available for adoption. The project invites local artists to create a special portrait of a waiting child, which is displayed at popular locations throughout Stark County. Due to COVID-19, the Heart Gallery will be presented virtually this year during the month of November at www.facebook.com/StarkFosterAdopt.

"Kourtney sees and feels the direct impact of her work every day when she is engaged with projects like the Heart Gallery or sharing adoption stories on the recruitment Facebook page," said Robert Myers, LISW-S, Deputy Director of Children Services. "It's wonderful to see her efforts being publicly recognized by the PCSAO and our community. She is truly an asset to Stark County Job and Family Services."

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The Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) is an association of Ohio’s county Public Children Services Agencies that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities. Each year, the organization recognizes a caseworker, a supervisor, and a support staff member as part of their *Outstanding Agency Staff* awards program. For more information about the PCSAO, please visit www.pcsao.org.



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