

## Stark County Job & Family Services

Deborah Forkas, M.Ed  
Executive Director  
[www.StarkJFS.org](http://www.StarkJFS.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH**

*STARK COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES THANKS FOSTER PARENTS  
FOR THEIR COMPASSION, DEDICATION, AND SERVICE*

**Canton, OH** – In recognition of May as National Foster Care Month, Stark County Children Services is honoring foster parents in a variety of ways through thank-you cards, phone calls, and free coffee at Carpe Diem Coffee Shop, 215 Market Avenue North in downtown Canton. On Friday, May 8, the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Foster Parent Recognition Banquet will take place, which includes food, fun, and prizes, along with a special thank-you video from the agency's staff. The banquet begins at 5:30 p.m. at Meyer's Lake Ballroom, located at 3218 Parkway Street NW, Canton.

A social networking event for foster parents and youth will be held at Chick-fil-A on Monday, May 18 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Chick-fil-A is located at 5411 Dressler Road NW, North Canton. In addition, a private party for foster parents and youth will be held on Friday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m. at the North Canton Entertainment Center, 5475 Whipple Ave, North Canton.

"We want our foster parents to know that they are valued and appreciated not just during the month of May, but year round as they care for the children in our community who are in need of a loving and safe home," said Deborah Forkas, Executive Director of Stark County Job & Family Services. "From the bottom of our hearts, we thank our foster parents for their compassion, tireless dedication, and true service to these children."

Currently in Stark County, there are approximately 175 licensed foster homes where 185 children are placed. These children depend on foster parents to meet their physical, emotional, and social needs until they can be reunited with their family or matched with a "forever" adoptive family.

To become a licensed foster parent, individuals must complete 38 hours of training and be at least 21 years of age. It is not necessary to own a home or be married, and same-sex couples are welcome. Foster parents can receive a board rate reimbursement and clothing vouchers, and medical expenses for the children are covered.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, please visit [www.starkjfs.org](http://www.starkjfs.org) or call (330) 451-8789.

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221 3rd Street S.E., Canton, OH 44702 Phone: (330)451-8861 (888)698-6893 TDD (330)451-8879

Children Services Division  
300 Market Ave. North  
Canton, OH 44702  
Child Abuse/Neglect  
Report Line (330)455-KIDS



Child Support Enforcement Division  
122 Cleveland Ave. North  
P.O. Box 21337  
Canton, OH 44701  
Phone: (330)451-8930

Human Services Division  
221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
Phone: (330)451-8861

Executive Offices  
221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
Phone: (330)452-4661