



Summit County
CHILDREN SERVICES
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MEDIA RELEASE

Summit County Children Services ■ 264 South Arlington Street ■ Akron, Ohio 44306

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ann Ream
Director, Community Relations
(330) 379-2070
aream@summitkids.org

Summit County Children Services' Women's Auxiliary Board Celebrates 70 Years

AKRON, OH – June 2018 – The Women's Auxiliary Board (WAB) of Summit County Children Services (SCCS) is celebrating its 70th anniversary of supporting local children and families while upholding SCCS' mission of safety, permanency and well-being of all children served, in partnership with families and the community.

"For seven decades, the WAB has been a valuable partner to our agency in our efforts to improve the lives of the children and families of Summit County. The devoted members of the WAB have donated countless hours and substantial resources to directly support the children we serve." said Julie Barnes, Executive Director of SCCS.

The WAB of SCCS has been a fixture in the Greater Akron community since it was established shortly after World War II. Today, the organization consists of over 80 members who volunteer to support numerous SCCS' projects and initiatives to benefit children, including the holiday programs and the school supplies drive. The WAB is currently celebrating June as Responsible Fatherhood Month, by providing fathers with opportunities for art and craft projects with their children at the Family Interaction Center (FIC) at SCCS.

For the WAB's current President Jen Thames, being part of the WAB means an opportunity to support a cause she is passionate about. "The WAB is committed to enriching the lives of abused, neglected and dependent children who come under the care of SCCS. The phrase *'These Children Are Our Children'* is at the core of our mission. I love being able to support the children of Summit County by working to uphold the agency's mission alongside fellow board members," she said.

On June 15, the WAB will gather at SCCS for an afternoon tea commemorating their 70 years of service.

History of the Women's Auxiliary Board

The WAB began as the "Women's Auxiliary Board of the Summit County Child Welfare Board" (now Summit County Children Services) in September, 1948. The group was organized under the leadership of three prominent local women – Mrs. Hilda Marvel, Mrs. Eleanor Voke and Mrs. Betty Jaycox, former women's editor of the *Akron Beacon Journal* – with a charter membership of 76 women chosen because of their "ties to

the community and their personal dedication to charity.” The original written purpose of the WAB was, “. . . to promote volunteer service, and to encourage donations of private funds, and to raise funds for use above and beyond the scope of public ones allocated by the county for the betterment of the children.”

The WAB quickly demonstrated its unique effectiveness, by raising funds and donating countless hours to help children at the former "Children's Home." Members babysat children, taught music, planned art and craft projects, decorated for the holidays, collected holiday toys and provided support to children in the care of SCCS. Despite changes in the child welfare system over the decades, including the move away from providing on-site services to children through a Children’s Home, the critical need for these vital extra dollars and services never lessened, and the WAB continues its work. Throughout the years, the many devoted and selfless members of the WAB remained faithfully committed to the WAB’s original motto – which remains valid to this day – *“These Children Are Our Children.”*

For more information on joining the SCCS' Women’s Auxiliary Board, contact SCCS' Community Relations Supervisor, Sandy Deluca at (330) 379-1994 or by e-mail at sdeluca@summitkids.org.

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