

## MEDIA RELEASE

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

For Immediate Release

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## Summit County Children Services Encouraging Awareness for Child Safety

**AKRON, OH – JULY 2020** – Summit County Children Services (SCCS) is urging community members to remain vigilant in regard to the safety of children. The COVID-19 quarantine limited the ability of mandatory reporters such as teachers and school personnel to observe victims of child abuse and neglect. It becomes even more important that others make a report to the agency when they become aware or suspect that a child is or may be abused or neglected.

SCCS currently has over 800 children in agency custody and 170 foster homes. Last year, SCCS served 1 out of 11 children in Summit County. As the need for safe and secure homes remains high, SCCS is actively recruiting foster parents to provide loving care to children when they are no longer able to safely live in their own homes.

"It often takes a village to love and care for children, especially those who are most at risk," said Julie Barnes, Executive Director. "Part of that village is our foster parent network. Foster parenting can be a challenging yet rewarding journey, but the love and support they provide children and their biological families are the reasons why children will have a brighter future. During these challenging times, we ask our community to remain vigilant and consider becoming a foster parent."

For more information about how to become a foster parent, please contact the Summit County Children Services inquiry line at (330) 379-1990 or you can visit our website at summitkids.org.

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