



Summit County  
**CHILDREN SERVICES**  
*Building Families . . . Building Futures*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Summit County Children Services Announces LEAP Class II Graduation**

**AKRON, OH – July 2021** – Summit County Children Services (SCCS) held a virtual graduation on Monday, July 26 for the Leading in Excellence and Professionalism (LEAP) Class II. The LEAP program was developed based on feedback from support staff who desire advanced practice skills to prepare them for future leadership opportunities. The 10-member class began in March and included participants from various departments within the organization.

The LEAP program engaged the participants in a variety of activities to advance their knowledge in key leadership areas such as communication, job skills, customer service, professional development, and employee wellness. The class offered virtual networking and engaging opportunities to allow staff to expand their current and newly developed skills.

The members of the SCCS LEAP Class II graduating class include: Jarae Dennis, Social Services Aide, Kayla Gardner, Clerical Specialist, Theresa Harlan, Account Specialist, Nicole Hawks, Social Services Aide, Nikita Jackson, Social Services Aide, Beth Lowe, Executive Administrative Assistant, Tracey Parker, Clerical Specialist, Kristin Thane, Clerical Specialist, Vickie Webb, Clerical Specialist, and Meghan Webster, Clerical Specialist.

The graduates invited friends, family and professional supports to attend and celebrate their virtual graduation. Welcome remarks were made by Julie Barnes, Executive Director of SCCS. “Congratulations LEAP graduates, we are glad to offer this opportunity to support individual career goals and develop leaders at every level of the agency,” said Ms. Barnes.

The next LEAP class at SCCS is scheduled to begin in early 2022.

To learn more about SCCS, please visit our website at [www.summitkids.org](http://www.summitkids.org).

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