



What's New at SCCS

Quarterly Newsletter - June 2023

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month was first observed in 1984 to raise the awareness of the important issue of child abuse and neglect. Since 1987, SCCS has observed and celebrated Child Abuse Prevention Month (also known as Child & Family Awareness Month) annually to educate people about child abuse and neglect prevention and to help build a solid foundation of strong



community support for children and families. On Wednesday, April 12, we painted the county BLUE to kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month and partnered with the Akron Zoo to "Wear Blue at the Akron Zoo" where everyone wearing blue received free admission! The Akron Zoo had over 2,900 guests that day. On Tuesday, April 18th we held a free two-hour training, Close-Up on Protecting our Babies: Practice Safe Sleep, where participants could learn more about sleep-related infant/child deaths and best practices for safe sleep.



12th Annual Appreciation Breakfast

In celebration of the National Child Abuse Prevention Month (observed in April), Summit County Children Services (SCCS) held its **12th Annual Appreciation Breakfast** on April 28 at St. George Family Center. This year's theme was "A Family is an Umbrella on a Rainy Day". This slogan was created by the winner of our Poster/Slogan Creative Contest, Vivien Frammartino, 4th grade student at Seton Catholic School! During this event, awards were presented to several "**Champions for Children**"- those whose accomplishments have significantly contributed to the well-

being of children and families throughout our community. Awards were also presented to recognize the accomplishments of children and families who have been served by SCCS. We had the opportunity to publicly thank and honor key organizations, agencies, businesses, civic groups, families, youth and individuals who, like SCCS, are committed to “helping keep children safe” in our community.

Congratulations to our winners!



Chief Deputy Scott Cottle
Community Partner
Award Winner



Veronica McNair
Community Partner
Award Winner



Joe Rizzo
Community Partner
Award Winner



Goodyear Law Department
Community Donor
Award Winner



Women's Auxiliary Board
Community Volunteer
Award Winner



**Debra & Tina Nees and
Amber Brown**
Kinship Caregiver
Achievement
Award Winner



Brad & Ashley Eplin
Foster Family Achievement
Award Winner



Khala Hudson
Family Achievement
Award Winner

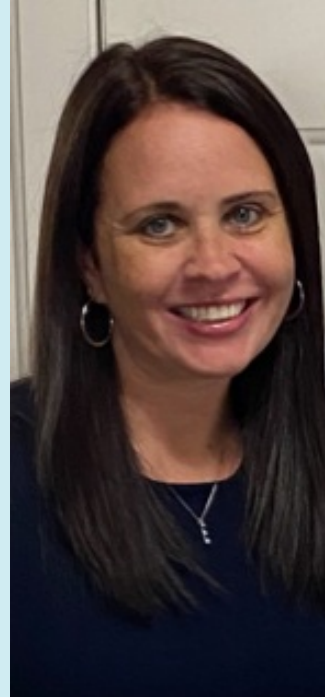


Jalene May
Youth Achievement
Award Winner

Congratulations to the 2023 SCCS Staff of the Year Winners!



Tanya Vanderveen
Caseworker Supervisor of the Year



Hope Fondreist
Caseworker of the Year



Kelly Aloisi
Support Staff Supervisor of the Year



Theresa Dejournett
Support Staff of the Year

In April, we celebrated our staff at our Social Work & Support Staff Recognition Reception. These winners were nominated by their coworkers and will be nominated for PCSAO awards!

Tanya Vanderveen's leadership as a social services supervisor has been vital to her unit's success. Ms. Vanderveen supervises her staff and works to plan with them, but she also provides hands-on training to new caseworkers with case plans and case reviews. Ms. Vanderveen's commitment to teamwork has aided her accomplishments as a casework supervisor and has given her staff the sense that they can do anything they put their minds to.

Hope Fondreist is a team player who is dedicated to her team members. She has not hesitated when asked to do a home visit or placement change for a co-worker and accepts it eagerly. As an advocate for her clients, Ms. Fondreist takes the time to get to know each client and builds a relationship with them to better promote the wellbeing of every child.

Kelly Aloisi is an exemplary staff member and supervisor and personifies commitment not

only to our agency's mission but to her staff as well. The prioritization of her unit is constant as she works to be an advocate and support system for her staff. The welcoming and inviting attitude that Ms. Aloisi always presents has allowed her to grow in her career. Her interactions with staff and the community are always done with kindness and respect.

Theresa Dejournett is full of knowledge and an expert when it comes to records management. Not only is she willing to find any record at any time for those in need, but she does it with a smile. As a records management specialist, she faces an abundance of information and data. However, she can organize it and share it with those that are looking into case history or information on a particular case.

National Foster Care Month

May was National Foster Care Month! National Foster Care Month is a time to acknowledge the children

and youth in foster care, as well as the family members, foster parents, volunteers, mentors, children services professionals, and policymakers who help them find permanent homes and connections.



Join us for a virtual informational meeting for interested foster parents.

For those who would like to attend this virtual meeting, you will learn a variety of details about foster care and adoption, including how long the process is and what kind of support is provided by SCCS. Currently, there are over 870 children in agency custody and about 170 licensed foster families.

A social services supervisor and a foster care coordinator will be available to share basic information about the children who need foster and/or adoptive families. This event is open to the entire community, however advance registration is required. Upon registering for this event, you will receive the link for the Zoom meeting.

When:

Thursday, June 9, 6 - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 27, 6 - 7 p.m.

Where:

via Zoom Meeting

(advance registration is required; Zoom instructions will be sent)

How to Register:

Online (link below) or call (330) 379-1990

[Register here](#)

Foster Family Night at Fun 'n Stuff

SCCS hosted a Foster Family Fun Night on Thursday, May 18 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Fun-n-Stuff in Macedonia.

This free, family fun event celebrated everything foster families do for children in their care and the community around them. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities were featured, such as laser tag, go-karts, and much more.



SCCS Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) Team Out and About

This program brings together teams dedicated to helping families who struggle with child maltreatment and substance use disorders. START uses a family oriented approach and provides services that help the child, parents, and entire family.



Ohio START Caseworker of the Year

Congratulations to Beth Smyntek for winning Ohio START Caseworker of the Year! Ohio START hosted the 5th Annual Ohio START

Summit May 1 at the Fawcett Center in Columbus with more than 200 START team members in attendance.



SCCS Day at the Akron Zoo

Staff members and their families received free admittance to the Akron Zoo and lunch. Activities and games were provided throughout the day.



**SCCS used Workforce Grant Funding to sponsor this event for all staff members.*

June is National Responsible Fatherhood Month & Reunification Month!

A healthy and responsible father is irreplaceable to children and families. Fatherhood is celebrated and revered year-round, but June is proclaimed Responsible Fatherhood Month by the Governor. Modeling responsible fatherhood and compassionately encouraging children is invaluable. The children are our future.

National Reunification Month, observed annually in June, recognizes the people and ongoing efforts around the country that help families stay together. It is also a time to recommit to strengthening, improving, and increasing those efforts all year long.

In Honor of Reunification Month, Meet Nichole!

Nichole achieved reunification with her son last year. Nichole shared that she felt her life didn't always have a purpose. She struggled with substance use and worked a case plan toward reunification. Today, Nichole has so much joy as a parent and loves being a mom, able to sing and hold her child.

Nichole wants to encourage others to never give up and believe that reunification is possible! Nichole is the newest SCCS Succeed Program facilitator, assisting parents interacting with the agency, providing hope, support, and empowerment for parents.

The Succeed group meets every Friday from 3-4pm at Touchstone. Touchstone is located at 838 Coburn Street, Akron Ohio 44311. Please call 330-379-2080 if you have any questions about the Succeed Program.



Join our Team!

[Click here to view and apply for our open positions!](#)

Stay connected with us!

[Summit County Children Services](#)

264 S. Arlington Street | Akron, Ohio 44306
24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: (330) 434-KIDS (5437)
Foster Care & Adoption Inquiry Line: (330) 379-1990

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