



# What's New at SCCS

## Quarterly Newsletter - September 2023

### September is Kinship Month!

September is celebrated as National Kinship Care Month, a time to recognize and honor all kinship caregivers. Many relatives and kinship families have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for children during difficult times, providing safety and stability to vulnerable children.



Kinship care is the most desirable out-of-home placement option for children who cannot live with their parents. Over 45% of the children in the custody of SCCS are placed in kinship homes while their parent work towards reunification. There are also many other children who are being cared for by relatives without any involvement with Summit County Children Services. Thank you to all kinship caregivers for all you do for the children placed in your care.



### Women's Auxiliary Board 75th Anniversary

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) Women's Auxiliary Board celebrated 75 years of service to the children and families of Summit County in June. The Women's Board hosted a tea celebration to commemorate their Diamond Jubilee Anniversary.

"On behalf of everyone at the agency, we want to thank our Women's Auxiliary Board for their tremendous volunteer efforts and generous donations," said Cassandra Holtzmann, Executive Director of SCCS. "The efforts they have made over the years are immeasurable."

Formed in July 1948, the first president of the Women's Auxiliary Board, Mrs. Eleanor Voke, marked a milestone as the first auxiliary in the nation for a public child welfare agency. Over 100 women were recruited as members who were committed to providing cultural, social, and educational development for

children of Summit County.

There are several volunteer work and projects that the Women's Board has participated in, such as their annual Rummage Sale, providing cleaning supplies, holiday decorating, crafts for families and providing funds for the SCCS Beds for Kids program. The Women's Board has continued to follow its motto "These Children Are Our Children" by working to enrich the lives of children who come under the care of SCCS.



Portrait of Eleanor Voke,  
First WAB President



A commemorative award  
to the WAB from SCCS



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## Corporate Challenge

Congratulations to the SCCS Corporate  
Challenge team for coming in second overall!!!

You all are #1 in our book!

Team SCCS had a lot of fun competing this summer!



Thursday, Sept. 7th

**VIRTUAL  
OPEN HOUSE**

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

Become a Foster Parent! Join us on Zoom!

**Join us for this virtual open house style event for interested foster parents.**

Who do you know who might be interested in foster care! Who do you know who has a big heart filled with love for kids? Who do you know who wants to make a difference in a child's life?

SCCS encourages you to invite others who want to learn more about foster care to our upcoming virtual Open House event. Guests will hear from a panel of foster parents who will share their personal stories and experiences so they will hear firsthand what it's like being a foster parent. In addition, staff will explain in more detail about the process and share information about the support provided by the agency.

**When:**

Thursday, September 7, 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](#)

## Summer Fun Day

In July, SCCS held a Summer Fun Day with a hot dog lunch, a sweet treat served by our Citizens Advisory Committee, and stations sponsored by Diversity, ERT, Reward & Recognition, and Wellness Committees!



SCCS Executive Team



Citizens Advisory  
Committee Members



Staff Members

## Peer Support Mentoring Program

Summit County Children Services understands the impact of secondary trauma on our staff and we are providing supportive services to meet staff's needs. Peer Support Mentors will act as supports and guides to staff experiencing a critical incident or secondary trauma.



**Peer Support Mentoring**  
*Your Story Matters*

# SCCS Promotions

## **Elizabeth Mangon, JD, LSW Deputy Director, HR & Training**

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) has named Ms. Elizabeth Reese Mangon, JD, LSW, as Deputy Director, Human Resources & Training. Ms. Mangon will oversee the agency's Human Resources, Professional Development & Training, and the Community Relations Department. Since 2017, Ms. Mangon has served as Department Director, Client Rights/Quality Improvement.



Ms. Mangon began her professional career at Summit County Children Services (SCCS) in 1996 as a Child Welfare Caseworker in Protective Services. In this role, she was responsible for the continuous assessment of abuse, neglect, and other forms of maltreatment of children in the agency's care and custody. While working for the agency, Ms. Mangon obtained her Juris Doctorate and joined the Legal Department in 2002 where she served as Legal Counsel and the Civil Rights Coordinator. In 2016, she transferred to the Supervisor of Records Management.

During her tenure at SCCS, Ms. Mangon has served in various roles and committees. She was the former President of the SCCS Rewards and Recognition Committee and her and her team have played an integral role in the development and execution of the agency's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work through Quality Improvement. Her team has worked diligently to link DEI efforts to practice through data analysis and an internal data dissemination series called The LOOP.

Ms. Mangon received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and a Juris Doctor from the University of Akron. She is a licensed social worker and attorney in the State of Ohio. As a member of the Continuous Quality Improvement Advisory Committee, Ms. Mangon has provided training statewide on quality improvement topics, and has also served as a trainer for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.



## **Jessica Miller JD, MSSA, LSW, LCDC-III (she/her) Department Director, Client Rights, Quality Improvement & Records Management**

Jessica Miller is the new Department Director of Client Rights, Quality Improvement & Records Management for Summit County Children

Services. She began her career in child welfare as a protective services

caseworker nearly 13 years ago. After four years at SCCS, she moved into a coordinator position within the Client Rights & Quality Improvement Department and in 2019, Jessica was promoted to Supervisor, Quality Improvement and Records. In this role, she first oversaw the records auditing team and later led, managed, and contributed to quality improvement activities with staff members responsible for data mining and analysis, research, agency policy and procedures, and compliance reports. Jessica has served as a Peer Reviewer assisting with the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR).

## Congratulations, Liz & Jessica!

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### Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week

September 11 - September 15

The child welfare workforce is a valuable and integral part of communities across the United States. Child welfare professionals work hard to protect children and strengthen families, often in challenging circumstances without thanks.

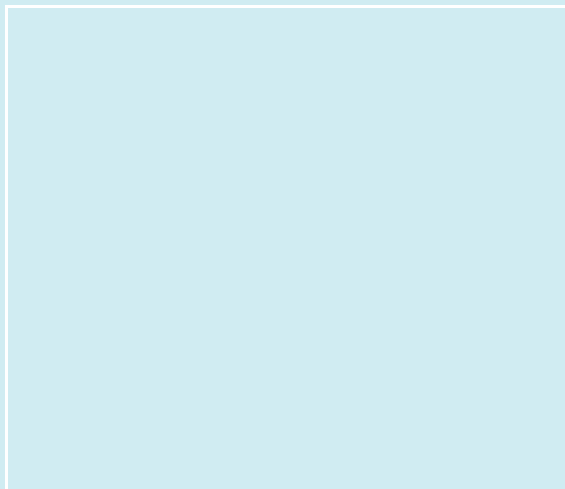
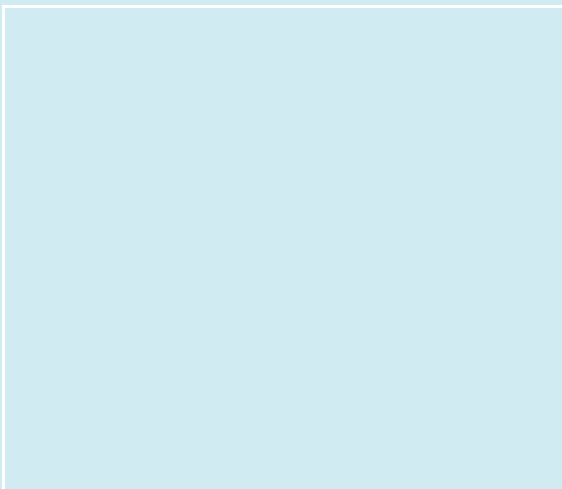
Celebrating, expressing gratitude for, honoring, and supporting the workforce is critical and aligns well with taking a strengths-based approach to the field. During this week, SCCS will be offering wellness workshops, in service trainings, self-defense, outside team games, prize giveaways and more!



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### Community Outreach

Our Ambassadors are out in the community all summer long! Come say hello if you see us in your community!





## Akron Pride

Thank you so much to everyone's help and participation in the SCCS Pride Events last week! We had an amazing time at the Akron Pride Festival on Saturday. The Diversity Committee appreciates everyone that took time out of their day to come out and march with us in the Equity March, as well as worked the booth during the event.



## United Way Day of Action

In June, volunteers from SCCS went to the Kohl YMCA and Rotary Camp for Children with Special Needs and worked on projects to keep our community beautiful as a part of United Way of Summit & Medina Day of Action!



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Summit County  
**CHILDREN SERVICES**

**APPLY  
NOW**

**Building  
Families**  
**Futures**  
**Careers**

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

Stay connected with us!

[Summit County Children Services](#)

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24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: (330) 434-KIDS (5437)  
Foster Care & Adoption Inquiry Line: (330) 379-1990

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