



Commissioners  
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**February 11, 2008**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Help Heal the Hurt** **Butler County Commissioners Launch Campaign to Recruit Local Foster and Adoptive Families**

(Hamilton OH, February 11, 2008) (Date, Hamilton, Ohio) Butler County Commissioners sent out a clear call to action to the community today—become a foster or adoptive parent. County Commissioner, Chuck Furmon, announced the launch of “Help Heal the Hurt”, a campaign to recruit Butler County foster and adoptive families.

“If we as a community are committed to keeping our battered and abused children safe, we as a community have to be willing to act,” said Furmon. The commission has taken action by committing a minimum of \$130,000 toward the campaign. Late last week, Butler County Children Services sent out requests to vendors to quote on graphic design, media buying and commercial production.

More than 350 Butler County children are living in foster homes or some other setting because of abuse and neglect. Seventy percent of those children are placed outside the county. Child welfare experts across the country agree that it is better for children if they are placed in their own community—remaining in contact with their friends, going to the same school or church.

“Bringing foster children home to Butler County also makes good business sense,” said Furmon. To keep children safe, children services workers have to visit children in the foster home. When 70 percent of the children are placed in other counties, staff time is used up in the car and not with children and families.

As a part of the campaign, letters will be going out this week to more than 800 families who indicated an interest in becoming a foster or adoptive parent. Children services is asking existing foster families to help reach out by telephone to each of these families.

Preliminary plans for the campaign involve producing a new television commercial, selecting the best mix of media to reach families in Butler County and making sure there are printed materials to support the campaign. More specifics of the media portion of the campaign will be available once the responses from vendors have been reviewed by children services.

An essential element in recruiting families is providing support during and after the process. Children Services has been reviewing and improving supports in preparation for the campaign. The agency has contracted with a Foster and Adoption Recruitment Coordinator and assigned a full-time Volunteer Coordinator. These two positions will work as a team with agency staff to engage and support families both during and after the process.

If you are interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent or in becoming a volunteer, call 513-887-4055 or 1-800-325-2685.