



News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Summit Officials Focus on Connecting Parents and Children with Community Resources

August 20 - 21, 2010, Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry, Summit County Children Services Executive Director John Saros and Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci-Teodosio hosted a series of child and family centered events at the John S. Knight Center, located at 77 East Mill Street in downtown Akron.



On Friday, August 20th, the trio sponsored a Summit for Children professional development workshop for social workers, legal professionals and area child care workers. Over 450 members of the community attended the luncheon to hear Pry, Saros and Teodosio speak on the local progress that has been made toward the statewide initiative Summit on Children.

The origin of Summit for Kids goes back to 2008; when the late Chief Justice Thomas Moyer and Governor Ted Strickland hosted a Summit on Children, where they requested all counties create a task force with a goal of reviewing services, programs and initiatives for children. The challenge was to develop new collaborations to enhance and improve those services.

"Since the initiative's inception, the County of Summit has made significant advancements in the areas of early childhood education, alternatives to juvenile incarcerations and housing issues impacting children aging out of foster care," stated Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. "As community partners, we will continue to move forward to advance the programming made available to children."

To view the report Executive Pry presented to State of Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland and Ohio Chief Justice Eric Brown, visit the County of Summit website www.co.summit.oh.us and click on the First Things First logo.

On Saturday, August 21st, the first annual Summit for Kids children's fair and information expo was held at the John S. Knight Center.

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Over 8,000 citizens attended the **FREE** event: which included 82 exhibit booths, live entertainment, family fun activities, complimentary back-to-school immunizations, dental services, physicals, sports bags, educational sessions for parents and more.

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio offered Operation Fresh Start, an opportunity to have Juvenile Court records sealed or "Failure to Send" or "Truancy Warrant" recalled before the school year began.

While parents gathered information and materials, children were entertained by Nickelodeon's "Diego", Western Reserve PBS' "Word Girl", The University of Akron's "Zippy", Akron Aeros "Orbit", face painting by Mother Goose and Balloon Bender Dave.

For more information about this special event, click on www.summitforkids.net.



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