

News Release, May 31, 2012

Fairfield County Earns National Association of Counties Achievement Award &  
Announces June 16<sup>th</sup> Event

Fairfield County recently earned an Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its Fatherhood Leadership in the Community initiative. The Fatherhood initiative is an effort to fill gaps in the availability of services by weaving fatherhood activities into existing services and connecting multiple groups at the grass roots level. Led by Carri Brown, Job and Family Services Deputy Director/Finance and Budget Officer, a core group consisting of Judy Shupe, County Commissioner; Sandy Miller, Domestic Relations Court Magistrate; Bishop Tim Teague, representing the Faith-Based Community; Corey Clark, Child Support Enforcement Agency Director; Rich Bowlen, Protective Services Director; and Becky Edwards, Fairfield County Children, Adult, and Family First Council Director, organized a fatherhood leadership summit in 2011 to bring together more than 40 community partners, share information, scan the community for needs, and develop an annual action plan for healthy fatherhood.

NACo has issued Achievement Awards for 43 years. This year, in Ohio, six counties received awards: Clark, Fairfield, Hamilton, Marion, Montgomery, and Summit. A list of all winning programs can be found at the NACo website: <http://www.naco.org>.

“Healthy fatherhood improves outcomes for children, families, and communities by inspiring nurturing, engaging, and well-equipped fathers. While the crisis of father absence is national, solutions must be found and implemented locally, one community at a time,” stated Brown. The Fatherhood initiative was recognized for its innovation in increasing services for citizens.

“Fairfield County is unique in how quickly community groups come together to support a common cause. While it is nice to be honored by a national organization, this program is representative of a greater effort by elected officials, community advocates, administrators, and county employees to lead Fairfield County with innovation, collaboration, and efficiency,” Brown added.

In connection with the Fatherhood initiative, one special event planned will be held on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> in honor of Father’s Day. All members of the community are invited to Victory Hill Church for free refreshments and a movie, *Courageous*, at 6:00 p.m. Free childcare will also be available. In addition, New York Giants player Jimmy Cordle will sign autographs and offer fatherhood encouragement from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. on that same day. For more information about June 16<sup>th</sup>’s activities or about the Fatherhood initiative, please contact Carri Brown, at [brownc12@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:brownc12@odjfs.state.oh.us).

