



# Messenger

Volume III, Issue 7  
Summer 2006

## Message from Our Interim Director Patty Fouch

I apologize that it has been so long since we've issued a newsletter, but we are getting back on a schedule and will keep you informed at least on a quarterly basis. Personally, I can't believe it's been two months since I began my interim role as Director. I must say, I have enjoyed every minute, and I cannot stress enough how extremely proud I am to be representing such a large group of committed professionals from Pickaway County JFS!

A lot has happened recently, with the resignation

of our former Director Heath MacAlpine, the resignation of our Child Support & Customer Service Administrator Natalie Blue, and cutbacks in staffing in our Child Support Division, due to financial issues. We are very fortunate to have Debi Hoffhines, who has stepped up to fill the Child Support Administrator role on an interim basis, and Rojanne Woodward, who is overseeing our Customer Service Unit. Not to be forgotten, there are many other agency staff who have taken on additional responsibilities to support opera-

tions during this transitional period.

As well, by now, many of you know that we will have a new agency director starting July 2nd, Rojanne Woodward. Rojanne's expertise within our organization, as well as her commitment to the betterment of our community, makes her an excellent choice to lead JFS into the future!

Given the change in leadership, we will certainly see organizational changes within JFS; however, with that change, also comes great opportunity!

## Note from PCJFS New Director Rojanne Woodward

I am very excited to have been appointed Director by our County Commissioners. I have had an opportunity to learn from our past Directors and from all of you and will use all I have learned to lead this agency. We do great things here and have a lot to be proud of. Because of our high standards and the care and attention we give the people who come through our doors, we are a great agency.

Even though I have worked with many of you for a very long time, I am interested to know what you



Pictured above left to right: Commissioner Reeser, PCJFS Director Rojanne Woodward, Commissioner Metzler, and Commissioner Wippel.

expect of me as a Director. I am also interested to know what you we need to do to continue to be the one of the best agencies in the state. I will be trying to talk with each of you over the next few months about these things. Also, I ask for patience as I learn my new role as Director.

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I am thankful to my past Directors for the opportunities given to me to develop as a leader. I am very thankful to Patty Fouch for her support and for all that she will try to teach me before she leaves. It is because of the good leadership of Patty, our Administrators and Managers and the good work that all of you do, that I feel confident that I can do this job.

Thank you,  
Rojanne

# Higher Education in Pickaway County

By: Jan Shannon

Over the past ten years, we have seen significant changes in Pickaway County with the closing of plants such as Jefferson Smurfit, Thomson RCA and Plastech. Previously, high school graduates could get a job making a significant salary in manufacturing at one of the local plants; however, this opportunity has diminished greatly in this county and throughout the entire U.S. The need now is for high school graduates to obtain some form of post secondary education, in order to be able to obtain jobs that provide the level of income that we became accustomed to from the jobs that were previously available in this county in manufacturing.

The Board of Commissioners recognizes this need and is putting forth an effort to raise the awareness for further education after high school. To accomplish this task, the Commissioners are appointing a committee that will lead the initiative.

In order to promote this initiative a presentation was made to the Superintendents of all four high schools and the County Superintendent. All were in support of the initiative and now the presentations will be made to the Board of Education at each county school at one of their monthly meetings.

In addition, the presentations will be made at civic organizations and community organizations.

Pickaway County Job and Family Services is very much in support of this initiative as we see this education initiative important to help the children of our clients and community to obtain future employment that will help them become and maintain a level of self sufficiency that will allow them to be successful.

## Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet

By: Missy Cromwell



**Our sincere appreciation to the parishioners of St. Joseph's Church in Circleville who helped us meet the holiday needs of our foster kids, as well as, the use of their facility for our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet.**

On May 23, 2006, our agency held our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet featuring a "Pinwheel" theme at St. Joseph's Catholic Church basement. The banquet was catered by Elegant Eats Catering, Debbie Cook. Six of our foster families attended this special event, as well as, Pickaway County Commissioner, Ula Jean Metzler, and several PCJFS staff members.

During this event, JoEllen Deal, Childrens Services Administrator, presented an overview on TANF and Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cooper, State Child Welfare trainers, conducted a training on "The Rewards of Fostering". During the dinner, a "Photo Tribute" (slide show) was presented in honor of our foster families. The evening ended with a drawing for a door prize.

I would also like to recognize and give special thanks to the following committee members that helped organize the banquet and make it a success; Melinda Eversole, Tracy VanHorn, Nicholas Tatman, and Dave Hardbarger.



Left: Presenters Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cooper



Below: Our foster parents enjoy an evening out.



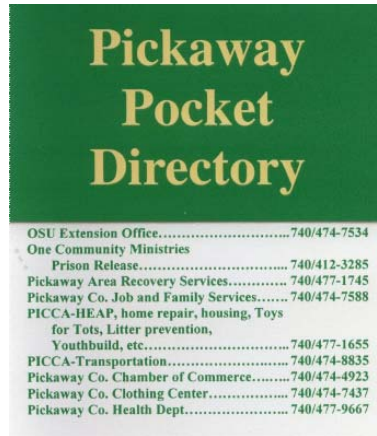
## Something New and Exciting!!

By: Margaret LeMaster

During the Faith Based Summit we discovered that a central resource system was lacking in our county. As an initiative of the Summit, the Information and Referral committee was formed. I was very fortunate to be a part of this group.

We were able to create a triple fold pocket-sized referral card with agency phone numbers. There were several thousand printed to be distributed throughout Pickaway County. It will be handy to put in a wallet or pocket.

We also created (thanks to Grace King) a data base of agencies to assist with various needs. We have already experienced some early success. A computer need for a family was submitted and we had



several responses to fill their need within a short period of time. What a thrill to see something from scratch to finish and watch it work!!!

Anyone wishing to receive copies of the pocket directory can e-mail us at [info@pickawayjfs.org](mailto:info@pickawayjfs.org).

Visit the all new [www.pickawayjfs.org](http://www.pickawayjfs.org)

### Added Features:

- Download Forms
- Report Changes
- Quick Access to Other Community Websites
- See JFS Employees Supporting our Community

## It's Just a Click Away!

By: Jan Shannon

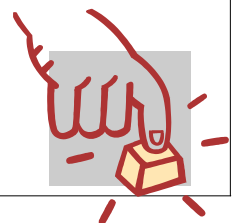
The JOBS One-Stop has a new web page, [www.pickawayjobs.com](http://www.pickawayjobs.com). This web page is a listing of our most recent positions and is categorized by types of jobs. The web page is structured with categories that are the same headings as the job board displayed in our Resource Room. By keeping consistency in our display it aides job seekers by quickly finding their fields of interest whether in our office or utilizing our new website. The web site provides not only job postings but a calendar that details upcoming events at the JOBS One-Stop including all Job Fairs.

In addition to job postings and job fairs, seekers will find links to local classifieds, the Ross and Fairfield County web sites and contact information for our many partners.



The web site was started at the beginning of September and has become a popular tool for our job seekers. In November we experienced 2014 visits to our site and felt it was extremely success for only being two months old. In March 2006, we experienced 4,969 visits to our sites.

One thing that we are looking at adding this summer is a section for youth job opportunities. We have some modifications in mind and are always looking for ways to improve. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to Jan Shannon.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## New Adoption Assessor

By: JoEllen Deal

Erin Reuter was sworn in by Judge Jan Long as a Pickaway County Adoption Assessor. Ohio law mandates that Social Workers involved in the adoption process must have completed mandatory training and be certified. The intent of this law is the assurance that everyone involved in the adoption process receives consistent information about adoption laws, practice, procedures, and financial subsidies. This 72 credit hour requirement covers topics about family and child assessments, birth parent services, cultural issues, open adoptions, post adoption issues, and available subsidies. **Congratulations Erin!**



- June 21, 2006 - Quarterly All Staff Meeting  
8 - 9:30 am, AmVets
- June 28, 2006 - Christmas Committee Picnic  
11:30 am—1 pm, North Side  
Parking Lot
- July 3, 2006 - Welcome new PCJFS Director  
Rojanne Woodward
- July 4, 2006 - Independence Day (Office Closed)
- July 18, 2006 - Ethics Training  
1—2 pm, Upstairs Conference Rm
- July 27, 2006 - Ethics Training  
9:30—10:30 am, Upstairs Conference Rm
- September 4, 2006 - Labor Day (Office Closed)
- September 20, 2006 - Quarterly All Staff Meeting  
8 - 9:30 am, AmVets
- November 3, 2006 - Faith Based & Community Summit  
Time & Location to be announced
- December 9, 2006 - Annual Recognition Banquet &  
Christmas Party, Foxfire Golf Course
- December 20, 2006 - Quarterly All Staff Meeting  
8 - 9:30 am, AmVets

## PCJFS Honored at Quality Performance Conference

By: Rojanne Woodward

Pickaway County JFS received honors at the ODJFS Quality Performance Conference held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were one of 6 counties in the state to achieve a 100% accuracy rate in our Food Stamp program. Kudos to the Family Support Division.



Those in attendance and accepting the award for PCJFS were: (back row, left to right) Ann Weaver, Director Heath MacAlpine, Michelle Lane, Connie Knapp, and Danielle Longhenry (front row, left to right) Family Support Division Administrator Rojanne Woodward, Margaret LeMaster, Penny Vernon, and Joe Brust

## Ohio Public Employer's Retirement System - Member and Contribution Rates to Increase

By: Joni Erwin

Beginning in 2006, Ohio PERS will implement the first stage of a plan to preserve quality health care for current and future retired members. Member and employer contribution rates will be increased to their statutory maximums over three years beginning January 1, 2006. This increase is the first in member contribution rates since 1977. Significant changes in health care benefits and eligibility are also part of the plan. These changes will be communicated in detail in the PERS newsletter, on the Ohio PERS web site, and in special health care bulletins and open enrollment materials in 2006.

The new rates for 2006 are:

- Employer contribution 13.7 %
- Employee contribution 9 %

The 2005 rates were:

- Employer contribution 13.55%
- Employee contribution 8.5%



## Workforce Policy Board

### Members Appointed

*By: Jan Shannon*

Sandy Frazier, a dislocated Thomson employee will be returning to serve a second term as labor representative of Pickaway County to the Workforce Policy Board. Sandy has recently graduated from college and is an employee of Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health.

Nate Green is the newest appointee to the Workforce Policy Board. Nate is the Economic Development Director in Pickaway County. Nate will be filling a term vacated by Beth Mitten, Schenker Logistics.

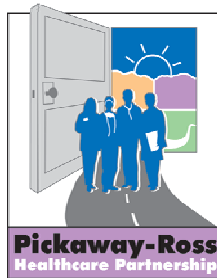
Currently serving terms on the Workforce Policy Board from Pickaway County are Asa Bradbury, Superintendent Logan Elm Schools; Don Bradley, Constance Care Home Health Care; Ronnie Leasure, Union Representative from USWA Local 7993; Ula Jean Metzler, Pickaway County Commissioner; and Suzanne Welker, Berger Health Systems.

## JOBS One-Stop participates in Healthcare Career Pathways

*By: Jan Shannon*



Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center announced the new Healthcare Career Pathway System. This is a system that collaborates with local healthcare employers, which is called The Pickaway-Ross Healthcare Partnership. The partnership envisions a local area where educational entities, human service agencies including the JOBS One-Stop in Pickaway and Ross Counties, and healthcare employers work in unison to assist low-income adults in obtaining post-secondary healthcare credentials. This allows them the opportunity to move up the career and economic ladder while at the same time providing a more qualified healthcare workforce for our community.



This system is funded through The Knowledge Works Foundation and The Ohio Workforce Policy Board.

On Friday, May 26th the official Kick-Off Event to celebrate The Healthcare Career Pathways was held. All of the partners and many others attended this event which was held at Pickaway-Ross CTC.



## BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

*By: Eri Thomas*

South Central Ohio Big Brothers Big Sisters raised a record total on their Bowl For Kids' Sake event this year. The event raised \$54,270 in the six county area and \$4,595 was generated in Pickaway County. These funds came from league bowlers, lane sponsors and the Community Day event that was held on April 2nd at Pickaway Lanes. The agency had teams from Job and Family Services, Wal-Mart, Good Will Industries and other community supporters. The funds raised from this event will go toward recruitment of volunteers, activities for the children in the program and to support the programs in Pickaway County.

PCJFS was well represented by the following teams: The Family/Adult Unit Team which consisted of Lindsey Reid, Joe Brust, Wendi Bennett, Margaret LeMaster, and Eri Thomas; and the JOBS One-Stop Team which consisted of Carla Ackley, Cristy Lewis, Casey Strawser, Travis Potts, and Penny Good.



### Noteworthy Success

#### Staying Safe —

Pickaway County Job & Family Services received the 100% Award from the Bureau of Worker's Compensation Division of Safety for 2005.

#### Way to go PCJFS!!!

The Pickaway County JOBS One-Stop has information about the Healthcare Career Pathways. In addition, orientation sessions are being held at the One-Stop as well as one of the sessions that "Pathers" attend, which is a Customer Service Training session. For more information on the Healthcare Career Pathways, please contact Carla Ackley at the One-Stop.



## “Relay for Life”

By: Laura McGuire



Pickaway Co. Job and Family Services will have a team in the American Cancer Society “Relay for Life” on June 10th - 11th. The theme of the Relay is NASCAR. Following that theme, we have named our team PCJFS PIT CREW!! Members are: Jodi Beckley, Sonya Burris, Trina Davis, Michelle Lane, Lynette McFarland, Emily McGuire, Heather McGuire, Laura McGuire, Megan McGuire, Janice Perdion, Erin Reuter, JD Reuter, and Ann Weaver.

The Relay is a unique way to raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society. It is an all night walk/run (I'm guessing most of us will be walking) involving teams who will keep at least one member on the track for a scheduled period of time. The Relay will be at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds beginning at noon on June 10th.

We are planning on having a lot of fun. There will be music, food, games, cards etc. Please come and join us. We promise it will be a good time.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported our efforts. I know we have all been affected by cancer in one way or another. This is a great way that PCJFS can be involved in a cure.

## New Ohio Direction Card

By: Laura McGuire

The Ohio Direction Card began in 1998 and for the last 8 years we have issued a Direction Card to our customers in Pickaway County. However, on March 3, 2006, our customers began receiving their cards directly from the state. Other than the card looking a little different (as shown below), there are few other major changes to the card:

**The benefits are automatically on the card each month, no more activating.**

**The customer needs a 4 digit PIN instead of 5.**

**If a card is lost it will be replaced by mail in 5-7 days.**

**The customer is given a 1-866 number to call and resolve any issue with the card.**



## Medicare Part D Enrollment Fair Held

By: Rojanne Woodward

Imagine having 95 insurance plans to choose from and how you would go about deciding which one is right for you. That is exactly what Medicare recipients have to do with the introduction of the new Medicare Part D prescription program. Without a doubt it has created quite a bit of concern and confusion among our elderly and disabled individuals in trying to make these decisions.

To help people understand and sort out their choices PCJFS sponsored an enrollment fair on December 6th along with the Health Department, Senior Center, and Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA). Over 20 JFS staff members and other community volunteers were on hand to assist over 60 people who came for help. Volunteers helped people to complete forms and then entered their prescription drug information into the Medicare webpage. People were then given a printout of the top 3 plans for them to take home and consider to make their choice.



The health department was on hand to give flu shots and to do blood pressure and diabetes screenings. The Senior Center helped with paperwork and provided refreshments. David Winslow from COAAA with his expertise and great knowledge of the Medicare Part D program was on hand to answer the many questions.

As a result of our efforts people were able to leave with some of their questions answered and a better understanding of the program.



## “WalkAmerica” 2006

PCJFS again formed a team to participate in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica on Sunday, April 23rd in Yoctangee Park, Chillicothe.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all who either participated in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2006 by walking or sponsoring one of us. This year the PCJFS Team raised \$596 to help fight the battle against premature births.

A special thanks goes out to Cristy Lewis, Kasey Strawser, Jodi Beckley, Trina Davis, Wendi Bennett, Lynette McFarland, Melinda Eversole, and family and friends who walked with us. An **extra special thank you** goes out to Katelyn Beckley for being PCJFS's Ambassador Child this year.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



## Changes In Child Support Payments

By: *Natalie Blue*

Currently child support payments are processed in three different forms: paper checks, direct deposit and the e-Quick Pay debit card. In July 2005, Governor Taft signed the budget bill which included a provision that allows the Office of Child Support to provide payments through mandatory electronic disbursements, thereby reducing or eliminating the use of costly paper checks. As a result of this new law, child support participants will now primarily have an electronic disbursement method of direct deposit or the e-Quick Pay debit card. (pictured right)



On December 5, 2005 the Office of Child Support began sending the enrollment information for electronic disbursements to all new cases established within SETS with a child support order. The participant that is receiving the child support payments is given the option of having the child support payments be sent by direct deposit or the e-Quick Pay debit card. If the participant does not

make a choice for one of the electronic disbursement methods, then they will automatically be enrolled in the e-Quick Pay method.

Six Ohio counties (Clermont, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Holmes and Richland) began piloting the conversion of their existing cases with child support orders to the electronic methods of disbursements. In 2006, the remaining Ohio counties began converting their existing cases with child support orders to this mandatory electronic disbursement process. This process is being completed in phases. Pickaway County is scheduled for mandatory enrollment June 21, 2006.

## It Only Takes a Spark!

By: *Rojanne Woodward*

The Faith-Based and Community Group follow-up summit was held on May 12th. This was a time for the four workgroups to report out and celebrate their accomplishments over the last 6 months.

The Mentoring committee had a successful year with the mentoring project between middle and high school students and Head Start children. They will continue this effort but are working on a new focus to recruit adult mentors to work with children.

The Volunteer group has been working on a goal of matching volunteers with faith-based and community programs. They are working on recruiting a volunteer coordinator to head up this effort and to establish a data base of volunteers.

The Information and Referral group has designed a tri-fold resource guide which can be easily carried in a purse or wallet for quick reference. They have also established a data base of faith-based and community group contacts. This e-mail data base will be used for agencies to communicate quickly with each other about special projects or services and also about special needs of clients we are working with.

The Focused Family Training group focused their efforts on planning and coordinating training called "Bridges Out of Poverty". This training was offered to community

*Pictured are some of the participants at the Faith Based & Community Group summit.*



agencies, faith-based organizations, educators, and businesses and was held on March 23rd and 24th. With interest to do more with this training, a separate workgroup was formed to work just on Bridges Out of Poverty. A second effort underway with this group is a partnership between the Apostolic Revival Center and PCJFS to pilot a family life skills or mentoring program in their church.

The Youth Development group is a new group which includes students and other representatives from all four school districts. These teens will be working together on a community project, probably in Ted Lewis Park, over the next 6 months.

The Foster Care/Adoption Recruitment group is another new initiative. This group will be focusing on recruitment for Foster Care and Adoption homes in the county.

The Homelessness Prevention group is also another new initiative. This group will be working on homelessness prevention activities in the county over the next 6 months.

The next Faith Based and Community Group Summit is scheduled for November 3, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Brooks Yates Center. Anyone wishing more information or interested in joining any of these workgroups, may contact me at 474-7588, Ext. 255.



# EMPLOYEE



## PCJFS Welcomes New Employees

By: Joni Erwin

Over the past several months, we have had quite a few employee changes within PCJFS. A few have transferred to other divisions within our department while others are brand new to our agency. They are as follows:

On September 6, 2005, Larry Sigmon joined our Fiscal Division as an Account Clerk.

On October 3, 2005, Joe Brust joined our Family Support Unit, as an Eligibility Referral Specialist 2.

On October 7, 2005, Kathryn Bamberger joined our agency on a part-time basis as an Administrative Hearing Officer for our Child Support Division.

On October 26, 2005, Erin Reuter accepted the new position of Adoption and Placement Social Worker in the Children Services Division. She began her new duties April 17, 2006 after returning from maternity leave.

On December 12, 2005, Jodi Beckley joined our Customer Service Unit as a Clerical Specialist 3.

On January 3, 2006, Margaret "Peggy" Perrill joined our agency as an Ongoing Worker in the Children Services Division.

On January 30, 2006, Sonya Burris transferred from our JOBS One-Stop division to our Fiscal Division as a Fiscal Specialist.

On March 13, 2006, Cristy Lewis accepted the position as Eligibility Referral Specialist 3 in the JOBS One-Stop Division.

On April 17, 2006, Travis Potts joined our agency in the JOBS One-Stop Division as an Eligibility Referral Specialist 2.

On April 24, 2006, Patty Fouch appointed as Interim Director due to Heath MacAlpine's resignation as director.

On May 15, 2006, Debi Hoffhines accepted the role of Interim Child Support Administrator due to Natalie Blue's resignation.

On June 19, 2006, Julie Bolen joined our agency in the JOBS One-Stop Division as a Business Services Specialist.

**Congratulations to all and welcome to the newest members of our staff!!!**

## Kudos to Employees

By: Patty Fouch

We enjoyed a successful and prosperous 2005, which was celebrated during our Annual Recognition Banquet and Christmas Party at Foxfire on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A great time was had by all that attended. The evening started out with a very good dinner prepared by Foxfire, recognition and special thanks from former Director Heath MacAlpine, a slide show of our many 2005 activities, distribution of many nice door prizes, and a DJ and dancing. Funds to support the DJ and the door prizes were collected through our specialty breakfasts and lunches, hosted by our agency units, and through the sale of our cookbooks. Again, our sincere thanks to the employees of Pickaway County Job & Family Services for your commitment, dedication, and true passion for fulfilling the mission of JFS.



**Pictured Right:**  
**PCJFS "Line Dancers"**



**Couples pictured above from left to right are: Evelyn & David Harber, Cleresa & Joe Brust, and Eri & Russ Thomas**



# Our Little Stars



Child Support Case Manager Jana Reisinger and her husband, John, are proud parents of a son, Colt Allen Reisinger, born on November 28, 2005. Colt weighed in at 7 lbs, 3 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. Colt also has a proud big brother, Ty.

**Congratulations, Jana & John!!!!**

Children Services Adoption Specialist Erin Reuter and her husband, Dan, are proud parents of a son, John Douglas, born on January 24, 2006. JD weighed in at a whopping 8 lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 inches long.

**Congratulations Erin & Dan!!!**

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## BIRTHDAYS

### JUNE

1st-Jason Tonn; 15th-Laura McGuire; 23rd-JoEllen Deal; 24th-Vickie Imler

### JULY

4th-Trina Davis; 6th-Kyle Saunders; 11th-Missy Cromwell; 16th-Margaret LeMaster; 19th-Rojanne Woodward; 21st-Mac Pontious; 27th-Kim Cullen; 28th-Lynette McFarland; 29th-Becky McVey

### AUGUST

1st- Joe Brust; 8th-Carla Ackley; 10th-Bonnie Dozier; 14th-Laney Stulley; 17th- Erin Reuter; 18th-Jill Arnold; 20th-Debi Hoffhines; 22nd-Connie Knapp

### SEPTEMBER

4th-Judith Topping; 5th-Patty North; 7th-Evelyn Harber; 10th-Joyce Forberger; 17th-Vikki West; 19th-Eri Thomas; 21st-Kasey Strawser; 24th-Jodi Beckley; 28th-Lori DeBruin



PCJFS welcomes back the following summer help: Mac Pontious, Derrick Bush, and Kaleigh Frazier. Brooks Kohli (not pictured) starts his summer employment with us at the JOBS office on Monday, June 19th.

**WELCOME TO ALL!!!!**



**PCJFS is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, July 6th at the Pickaway County Service Center (upstairs conference room) from 9:00 am 3:00 pm . Anyone wishing to donate blood should contact Mikki Vinkovich at (740) 474-3105, Ext. 138. to schedule an appointment.**



# Our Little Stars



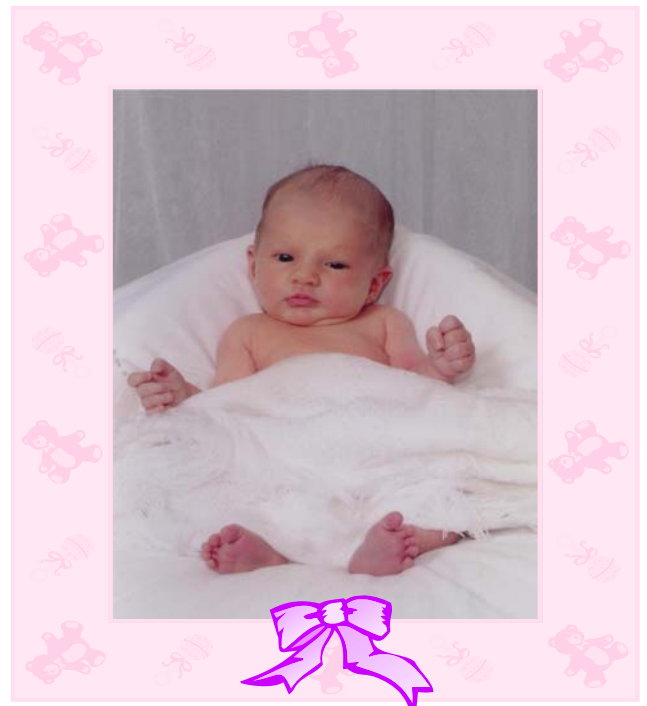
Children Services Intake Worker Emily Otterbacher and her husband, Jason, are the proud parents of a son, Ryan Keith, born at 1:36 pm on February 8th. Ryan weighed in at 6 lbs. 14 oz. and is 18 1/2 inches long. He has strawberry blond hair.

**Congratulations, Emily & Jason!!!!**



Children Services OnGoing Worker Dave Hardbarger and his wife, Annie, are the proud parents of a 7 lb. 12 oz. baby girl, Addison Nicole, born on February 22, 2006.

**Congratulations Dave and Annie!!!**



Children Services Intake Worker Charity Nolan and her husband, Butch, are proud parents of a 7 lb., 11 oz. baby girl, Grace Elizabeth, born on March 24, 2006. Gracie was 20 3/4 inches long.

**Congratulations Charity & Butch!!!**