



Press Release: May 3, 2022

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**Date of Event:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm

**Location:** Ciminero's Banquet Centre, 123 N. Main Street, Niles, Ohio

**Description:** Annual Foster Caregiver Appreciation Dinner

**Contact:** Michelle Schmader, Community Liaison/Recruitment Specialist, 330-372-2010, ext. 1343

## **Trumbull County Children Services Recognizes Foster Caregivers During for Foster Care Appreciation Month**

May 17, 2022 - Trumbull County Children Services (TCCS) will hold its Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6 p.m. at Ciminero's Banquet Centre, 123 N. Main St. in Niles, Ohio. As part of our ongoing search for additional foster caregivers, the theme this year is appropriately named, *"The World Needs S'More Foster Caregivers Like You."* All 70 Trumbull County licensed foster caregivers will be acknowledged for their dedication to caring for children who have been abused and neglected while their families receive services to create a safe and healthy home. The event will also honor foster caregivers for their years of service and 23 families will be recognized for becoming newly licensed foster homes. Guests for this special event include foster caregivers, their children, agency staff and board members, and other public officials. Oh Wow's Ralf Urbach will provide entertainment for the children in attendance.

The guest speaker is Jessica Williams, LSW, MSW, who is an Assessment Supervisor at Trumbull County Children Services. Jessica is a two-time Youngstown State University alumna, graduating with high honors in both her bachelor's and Master of Social Work. She went on to gain membership into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, and Golden Key International Honor Society. Upon completing her undergraduate program, she secured employment at Trumbull County Children Services. After completion of her graduate program, she quickly rose to the ranks of Assessment Supervisor. Currently she is the youngest supervisor at the Agency.

Jessica and her sisters grew up in a home where both parents struggled to overcome drug addiction. This ultimately caused the girls to be placed in foster care. She will share her personal experience with foster care and adoption and discuss how these experiences developed her drive to help other children and families facing the same obstacles. This resilient young woman knows that her lived experience makes her a passionate and empathetic professional, characteristics that she models for her employees as they work to make a positive impact on their families.

The Annual Foster Caregiver Appreciation Dinner is one way that Trumbull County Children Services celebrates our foster caregivers who provide temporary care for children in the county who have experienced abuse or neglect, while the Agency works with families to create safe and stable homes for their return. Foster and adoptive families play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect, thereby launching young people into a future filled with love, hope, and opportunity.

In recognition of Foster Care Appreciation Month, on May 4, 2022, the Trumbull County Commissioners will issue Trumbull County Children Services and its Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA) a Resolution for its service and commitment toward promoting the best interest of children in foster care throughout the county.

If you would like more information about Foster Care Appreciation Month, or if you have interest in becoming a foster caregiver or adoptive parent, please contact Michelle Schmader, Community Liaison and Recruitment Specialist, at 330-372-2010, ext. 1343.

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