

## MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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### **Almost 1000 people come to church for *Child Support Days***

(Monday, August 24, 2008, Akron) ... "In just 12 short hours," said Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh, "the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) and our partners helped almost 1,000 people get their lives back on track and to do the right thing for their children by attending *Child Support Days*. We accomplished more than any of us could have imagined and I am very pleased with our success."

*Child Support Days*, sponsored by Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh's Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), a division of the prosecutor's office, was held Friday and Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. *Child Support Days* took the successful model of the U.S. Marshal's Safe Surrender Program and expanded it to offer additional services for child support clients. Partners included Bishop Marc Neal and the Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church; Clerk of Courts Dan Horrigan and staff; Common Pleas Judge Thomas Teodosio and staff; Domestic Relations Magistrate Deborah Matz and staff; Sarah Kisner, Director of the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services and staff; Oriana House, Summit County Sheriff's Office, Ohio BMV, and the Common Pleas General Division.

Walsh continued, "We learned a great deal by talking with the people who came to *Child Support Days*, specifically that having it at a church does make a difference. They trusted the church environment and many, many commented that they knew these two days were the time to clear up their outstanding problems because of the unique situation of *Child Support Days*. We hope to maximize on what we learned this weekend and offer more opportunities such as this one to our clients by building the success of this program as much as we can into our ongoing operations.

"We had approximately 50 people working *Child Support Days*, including staff from CSEA, our partners, and church volunteers. This team really hustled and I want to once again thank everyone for their hard work, which is reflected in the outstanding results:

"Total clients: 984

Total child support payments collected: \$25,314

Largest amount collected: \$2,492 paid on credit card

Total Warrants: 105 (these included 68 child support related warrants resolved; the others were misdemeanor warrants for other violations, felony warrants for other offenses, and those who came in believing they had a warrant and did not);

"Total driver's licenses: 415 individuals had their child support suspension lifted from their driver's license (not all were reinstatements as some still had other

reasons for having their licenses suspended; and/or, many had to pay BMV fees to be reinstated);

“Total employment and training: 92 people sought information from the Department of Job and Family services on employment and training opportunities.”

Walsh concluded, “The remaining individuals came in for various child support related issues they wanted to resolve. Once again, thank you to all of our partners and especially Job and Family Services, which funded this opportunity. We hope to do it again!”