



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

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Outstanding Franklin County Children Services Foster Parents Honored at Banquet

Franklin County Children Services recently held its **47th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation** banquet, recognizing the outstanding efforts of the agency's 300 foster families, and five exceptional families in particular. These five inspiring families have consistently gone above and beyond to ensure the health and happiness of our community's abused and neglected children.

Columbus resident **Stephene Armstead** was named **2011 Foster Parent of the Year** for her unwavering commitment and compassion. Armstead has expertly cared for 18 children since she became a foster parent 11 years ago. She's known for her empathy, selflessness, and unconditionally being there for her children.

For going impressive lengths to help children, Hilliard residents **Paul and Kelly Hern** were recognized as first runner-up for Foster Family of the Year. Since 2002, the HERNs have made a profound difference in the lives of 30 children, including one young mother and her baby, for whom they've provided endless support, love and encouragement.

Columbus residents **Jacob Glover** and **Amanda Scott**, who were honored as second runner-up for Foster Family of the Year, excel at helping reunite foster children with their families. Supportive, open-minded and kind-hearted, Jacob and Amanda strive tirelessly to help children get back home again.

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Honorable mention for Foster Family of the Year went to Northland-area residents **Elizabeth** and **Mary Lynn Bridges**. Children thrive under the expert care of these exceptional foster parents. These devoted foster moms have a true gift for nurturing kids with complex medical issues, ensuring their health, happiness, and future success.

Tom and **Erin Rogers**, who live in Clintonville, were honored with the agency's first-ever Mission Accomplished award, which recognizes a foster family's extraordinary efforts in helping children maintain family connections. Foster parents for just three years, the Rogers went to tremendous lengths to ensure that their newborn foster daughter got the best possible start in life and established permanent ties to her birth family.

For more information on foster care as well as the other programs and services Franklin County Children Services offers to help children and families, please visit www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services for more information.

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