



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

---

# Media Release

---

For Immediate Release

April 2014

## Reception Honors 50 Years of Volunteers Helping Children in Need April 22 at OSU Union

Franklin County Children Services will host the 30<sup>th</sup> annual volunteer recognition reception to honor volunteers and mentors for their dedication to children in need. The event, *Celebrating 50 Years of Volunteering*, will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. at The Ohio State University Union, 1739 N High Street, Columbus, OH 43210.

“Children under the care of Children Services depend on volunteers to help them through difficult times, and through a volunteer’s involvement, we’ve seen countless children’s lives change immeasurably,” said Volunteer Director Elizabeth Crabtree.

The number has been steadily increasing over the past few years but the agency currently has nearly 500 volunteers and mentors in the following programs:

- Friendship Volunteers provide one-on-one guidance and support to individual children
- Simba and Malaika are culturally and gender-specific mentoring programs matching African American men (Simba) and women (Malaika) with African American youth,
  - College-Bound Mentors are matched with teens, as young as 10<sup>th</sup> grade, who are interested in pursuing higher education, and,
  - Crisis Center Volunteers provide support, activities, and supervision to youth who come into the Intake and Assessment office.

Each program will have one volunteer / mentor recognized for their service, except for the Friendship Program, where a volunteer will be recognized from each region: East, West, and Central. Volunteers with the following years of service will also be recognized: 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25.

Every child needs a caring adult, a role model, a friend, or a teacher. “At Franklin County Children Services, volunteers and mentors make a tremendous difference in the lives of children and families, and are a true part of our team to help *protect children by strengthening families*,” said Crabtree. “There is no question that by volunteering their time and opening their hearts, these special friends have truly enriched the lives of children.” For more information about the reception or becoming a volunteer, call 614-275-2690, or visit [www.franklincountyohio.gov/children\\_services](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services).

For further  
information  
contact:  
Elizabeth  
Crabtree,  
Director of  
Volunteers

614-275-  
2633