



Fatherhood Quarterly

A Publication of the Montgomery County Dept. of Job & Family Service Fatherhood Initiative (MCFI)

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FEATURED TOPIC:

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The Montgomery County Fatherhood Initiative relies heavily on its community partners to serve clients efficiently and holistically. Therefore, it only makes sense that Fatherhood Quarterly features guest columnists to explain how their programs and events help fathers in our community. In this edition, we will learn about ResCare Workforce Services, our partner in the Montgomery County Child Support Enforcement Agency's Seek Work Opportunity Program (SWOP).

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There's Nothing Like A Job

Paying bills is a lot easier with a job. This sounds simple, but let me expound. Sadly, every day, people ordered to pay child support (90% of which are Dads) have to explain to child support workers, probation officers, and court officials why they have failed to pay their child support obligations, fines, etc.. A common trait amongst these folks is the lack of steady employment. Again, this is not surprising. What may be surprising to you, however, is the attitude of many of those who owe.

Everyone knows that there are individuals that aren't interested in working. What you should understand about many of our clients, though, is that they are not lazy. They just don't have a full appreciation of the benefits of full-time employment.

The term I have heard over the years is "hustling". Allow me to play the Urban Dictionary for a moment. Hustling does not necessarily indicate anything illegal. In fact, most of the time it does not refer to a crime. Hustling

means doing different small jobs and accumulating enough income through those tasks to pay one's bills. For example, if your uncle owned a snow plowing business this winter and texted you every time he needed an extra driver, you could probably have

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"hustled" enough to keep your bills paid. Other popular examples of "hustling" include working as a landscaper, barber, auto mechanic or detailer.

In court each and every week Montgomery County Juvenile Court Chief Magistrate Greg Scott asks obligors "Where are you employed?" Invariably, a few say, "Nowhere. Just hustling, Your Honor." At that point, their attorney or I intervene to attempt to help the obligor obtain full-time employment. Our fea-

tured columnist this month (ResCare Workforce Services—located at the Montgomery County Job Center) is one of the most effective employment referral service we use.

There is actually nothing wrong with (legal) hustling, but it should serve as supplemental income. There are various barriers to obtaining employment, but we should encourage our clients to attempt to overcome them so they can meet their obligations and have happier lives. Full-time jobs, in many cases, provide stability through steady income, additional training and education opportunities. They also offer the chance for advancement and health insurance. These are important things that hustling, no matter how hard you might work, will never bring.

Michael Newsom is the Fatherhood Coordinator with the Montgomery County Dept. of Job & Family Services. Contact him at (937-496-7569) or newsom@odjfs.state.oh.us.

A Promising Partnership



“Art gives them a voice, a release. Art helps the participants have a sense of community and understanding of diversity; working towards oneness.” - ULM Program Practitioner Derrion Williams

Fatherhood practitioner Urban Light Ministries (ULM) is forming parenting classes with a twist. The program known as the Family Strengthening Initiative is designed to serve families with children in the care of Children Services. The initiative was piloted in Clark County and has now taken off in Montgomery County.

The concept is for families to have the opportunity to not only visit with their children but also enjoy a free family meal and give Dads some fatherhood education. The Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services-Children Services Division identified the participants, and the first session was held on Tuesday, March 25, at United Community Brethren Church at 15 W. Hillcrest in Dayton.

Five families attended and

were served an outstanding dinner of salad, bread, lasagna, and cookies for dessert. The families that included siblings were afforded a chance to talk and laugh around the dinner table just spending valuable time together. Meals for the 14-week program will be donated by supporters who volunteered through a partner organization, The Christian Life Center.

In addition to dinner and general visiting, the early part of the evening (from 4-6 p.m.) features a family art project. Family dynamics can be challenging in any situation, and those who have trouble communicating with words can often speak through art. “Art gives them a voice, a release.” says ULM Program Practitioner Derrion Matthews. “Art helps the participants have a sense of community and understanding of diversity; work-

ing towards oneness.” Renowned artist Dr. Willis Bing Davis was on-hand on Tuesday, April 1, to lend his expertise to the program’s first art component.

After the children leave at 6 p.m., the fatherhood classes are led by Matthews using the Nurturing Fathers for Life Curriculum (NFL Dads). Family Works, a program of Marriage Works, will also be providing relationship classes and coaching for participants.

JFS management personnel including Mary Jane Johnson & Roger Loy (Children Services) and Sarah Fields (Child Support) have been there to show their support for the program. There is still space available for more families to participate.

If you wish to make a referral, please contact Coordinator, Mike Newsom at 937-496-7569 or newsom@odjfs.state.oh.us



A Montgomery County Father and his children enjoy their time together as a family.

Guest Columnist— Phillip Raimey, ResCare Workforce Services

As we enter the spring of 2014, the Seek Work Opportunity Program (SWOP) is proud to announce that over 40 individuals have reported employment during the first quarter of this year. We have had participants receiving job offers from retail, food service, health care, general production and janitorial/maintenance sectors.

In late February, SWOP hosted a career fair for On Time Staffing, which was screening applicants for positions with Caterpillar located in Clayton. The fair, open to the public, was pulled together on rather short notice but managed to attract more than 100 candidates, the majority from SWOP. Several participants, like Dallas Powers, have indicated that they have made it through to second round testing and background screening.

Mr. Thomas Woods intimated that his recent experience in

SWOP has helped immensely in finding his new job which started March 31. After enrolling in SWOP on Feb. 26, Woods brushed up on his basic job search skills including resume development, and he took advantage of the “stop-gap” principle that our facilitators so often stress- “Being more employable employed.” This stands for the simple idea that it’s easier to find a new job when you already have one.

Woods relocated from Franklin County to the Dayton area and as a result lost employment as a transit driver. Although he has a Class B commercial driver’s license and would prefer a career in driving, Woods decided to follow-up on a job lead with New Jersey based cleaning and maintenance service TSSI and is now assigned as a third shift janitor to the Sugar Creek Packaging plant located in West Dayton. Woods also has credentials as a private security

officer and ultimately seeks a career in law enforcement.

The latest addition to our staff, Shelica Brooks, who has a background in education and business administration, has been hard at work developing potential employment partners such as Norwood Medical and Five Rivers Metro Park. Our job developers play a key role in the area job market, meeting the needs of established and expanding businesses.

We continue to serve non-custodial fathers and mothers, helping them reach their highest level of independence and build lasting relationships for stronger communities.

Phillip Raimey is an Operations Coordinator with ResCare Workforce Services in The Montgomery County Job Center, 1111 Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton. Contact him at 937-225-5275 or phillipraimey@rescare.com



Find out more about the Seek Work Opportunity Program (SWOP) on Page 4.

The MCFI was asked to attend a meeting at Concept Schools to discuss ways in which they can help their students' parents (specifically fathers) become more involved in their children's academic careers. Fatherhood Coordinator Mike Newsom represented MCFI and is pictured here with Ohio State Representative Roland Winburn, Ohio State Senator Bill Beagle, and Concept Schools leaders.



SWOP By the Numbers: 2013

- ◆ **Over 200 Participants Were Assisted with Job Placement**
- ◆ **Approximately 65% of Placements Resulted in Job Retention of 60 Days or More (An Excellent Indicator of Long-Term Employability)**
- ◆ **Average Hourly Wage = \$9.27**
- ◆ **Median Hourly Wage = \$15.92**

To Qualify for SWOP, you MUST:

- ◆ Have an active child support case
- ◆ Have a child 18 years of age or younger
- ◆ Reside in Montgomery County

Please Contact Us

The Job Center
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1111 S Edwin C Moses Blvd (Orange I)
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937-225-5275 or email:
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ResCare Workforce Services (d/b/a Arbor Education and Training, LLC) provides counseling, training and job placement to people of all ages with barriers to employment. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of our clients, their families and the greater community.

We Offer:

- ◆ Job Readiness Workshops providing resume development, interview tips, effective job search strategies, computer & on-line skills training, job coaching & much more
- ◆ Referral sources for barriers to successful employment such as education, legal assistance, housing, resources for people with disabilities, childcare, etc.
- ◆ Job leads based upon individual experiences, skills and other qualifications
- ◆ Work opportunities with “second chance” employers for persons with criminal convictions and other at-risk factors, including TANF/SNAP recipients, poor credit and displaced workers
- ◆ Case management plans emphasizing advocacy to prevent Ohio Driver’s License suspension or re-instatement for prior suspension.

Schedule of Events

- } April 16, 23, & 30 (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)- Job Readiness Workshops @ The Job Center. Please register at OhioMeansJobs.com/Montgomery.
- } May 2 (8 a.m.—3 p.m.) Reentry Resource & Training Expo. @ Sinclair Community College Building 12, 444 W. 3rd St., Dayton
- } June 12 (6 p.m.) Montgomery County Child Support Modification Clinic @ Haines Children's Center. See mcoho.org/services/mcsea for more info.
- } June 13 (6 p.m.) Celebrate Fatherhood Kick-off Event @ Vineyard Church 1222 N. Main St., Dayton
- } June 14 (11 a.m —4 p.m.) "My Dad Rocks Celebration" @ Island Metro Park in Dayton

2014 Spring Job Fair

Sponsored by [OhioMeansJobs Montgomery County](http://OhioMeansJobs.com/Montgomery) & Wright-Patterson AFB

Wednesday - May 7, 2014

Noon to 4 p.m.

University of Dayton Arena

1801 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd Dayton, OH

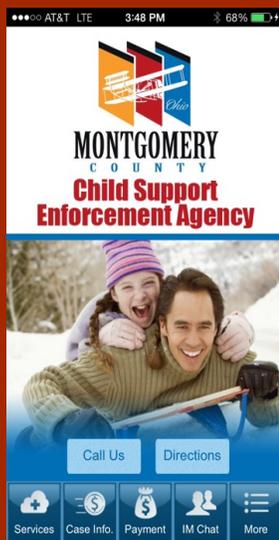
Companies are hiring for full and part-time positions. This event is open to our civilian and military communities.

Military Uniforms or Professional Attire Required

Visit OhioMeansJobs.com/Montgomery for more

information and to **REGISTER** for this event.

Contact MCFI Coordinator Mike Newsom for additional information for any of these events.



Child Support App Brings New Tools!

The Montgomery County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) has introduced a new smartphone application designed to make life easier for dads and everyone involved in the child support system. Life is busy and parents need fast and easy ways to communicate with the CSEA and gather quick information while on the go. Through the app, customers can:

- ◆ Pay support, check payment status
- ◆ Chat live online with CSEA staff
- ◆ Find useful forms & helpful links
- ◆ Sign up for message notifications
- ◆ Find a glossary & other resources

The mobile app can be downloaded for free from the Apple App or Google Play Store, by scanning the QR Code (to the left), or by visiting the child support web site at www.mcoho.org/services/mcsea