

## Dayton Couple Chosen As Family of the Year

**COLUMBUS** -- Congratulations to Rob and Carolyn Neace of Dayton! This wonderful couple was honored as Public Children Services Agencies of Ohio (PCSAO) Family of the Year, and they were also featured in this [Dayton Daily News Neighbors section story](#).

PCSAO chose the Neace's because of their determination to see that their two young boys received the extensive medical attention they needed.

“We love these boys with all our hearts, and we would do anything for them,” Rob said. “We feel honored and blessed that we have been able to do this.”

The family has finalized the adoption of Jude, who was born with water on the brain. A little over a year after they took in Jude as a foster child, the Neace's took in another child with significant health issues. He can't be identified because his adoption is not yet final. Between the two of them, the boys suffered from digestion issues, feeding and sleeping problems, ear and respiratory infections, developmental delays, heart murmur and other significant health issues.

“We would like to thank our caseworker, Lisa Dietrich, for everything she has done,” Rob said. “She has always guided us in the right direction, especially in ‘sticky’ situations. Lisa is always on top of things and gets us answers within the same day. She has made it enjoyable working with Montgomery County Children Services.”

“I am amazed by the love, patience and persistence our families show our waiting children as they go through the adoption process, and the Neace’s are a prime example,” said Deb Downing, Assistant Director for Children Services.



**Jennifer Justice, Deputy Director of ODJFS Office of Families and Children, honors the Neace family with a certificate and a big bouquet before a packed house at the PCSAO luncheon. Left to right are Carolyn, Jude and Rob Neace. The child at the far right is not identified because his adoption is not yet finalized.**

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“Many couples might shy away from children who have such extensive medical needs, but not Rob and Carolyn,” Downing added. “These are special people, and these two boys are fortunate to have them caring for them and serving their many needs.”

No matter what health issues confronted the boys, Carolyn and Rob trudged through each illness and learned the best ways to try and keep them well.

“Our adoption caseworker, Shirley Pagan, has made our first adoption experience wonderful,” Carolyn said. “She answered all our questions and guided us through the process. We are excited that she is working with us on our second adoption.”

[Click here](#) to learn more about adoption through Montgomery County Children Services.

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