

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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CSEA announces winners of “Dad and Me” photo contest *Dad and Son willing to share their story with the media*

(Akron, July 26, 2011) ... “Michael Wilmoth has not always been the father that he wanted to be,” said Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh when announcing the winners of the Child Support Enforcement Agency’s (CSEA) “Dad and Me” photo contest, “but look at him today!”

CSEA’s “Dad and Me” photo contest winners were announced today. CSEA is a division of the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office. The first place winner was Michael Wilmoth, who submitted a photo of himself and his son Tahj Woodall (pictured in the attached). The contest was held in June as part of “Fatherhood Month” and the winners are being announced as part of “Child Support Awareness Month,” which is in August. Award winning photos will be displayed in the CSEA lobby and included in the August Child Support Awareness Month ad, which will run in *The Reporter*. The ad will also be posted on the prosecutor’s website and will be featured in the office newsletter.

Walsh continued, “Micael has had challenges paying his child support. He was convicted of criminal non-support in 2007 and 2010. You wouldn’t know that today, however, as he is consistently paying child support and filed for visitation rights to see his son. This is a “good job, dad,” moment and we want to recognize him, his son, and mom for their hard work.”

Wilmoth said when receiving the tickets, “I can 100 percent say if you will work with the Child Support Enforcement Agency, they will work with you. I had the mind set that I had to avoid those people; I have learned that they are not only nice to work with, they will help you work out your child support and help you get on the right track. It is better for yourself, because you are not going to court; it has been better for my son, because he is not only financially supported but I am communicating better with his mom, which has improved our relationship. All the way around, it is better.” Wilmoth is currently a student at the University of Akron and has a photography business.

Walsh concluded, “We know that without the emotional and financial support of a father, children are more likely to experience poverty, illness, drug and alcohol abuse, incarceration, teen pregnancy, and emotional educational neglect. The support of a father is priceless.”

Wilmoth was awarded tickets for four to Geauga Lake’s Wildwater Kingdom. Second place was awarded to Christine Murphy, who submitted a photo of her son Mike Malcosky, and grandson Michael Malcosky, Jr., spending quality time sled riding. Malcosky was awarded four tickets to see the Cleveland Indians.

For the month of August, FREE GENETIC TESTING is being offered at Akron General Hospital and Summa City Hospital. In addition, CSEA will be providing information on child support and offering paternity testing at the following locations during the month of August:

August 10 and 24, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Akron-Summit County Main Library
60 S. High Street
Akron, OH 44326

August 16, 30, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Metro Regional Transit Authority
631 S. Broadway
Akron, OH

August 20, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Summit for Kids
John S. Knight Center