



# **SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

## **SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT: James Pollack

Phone: (330) 604-2739

[pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net)

Facebook: SummitCountyProsecutorOffice

Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

## **Successful Child Support Solutions Day Helps Families**

*One-Day Event Provided Solutions, Helped Collect Support Payments, & Reinstated Drivers' Licenses*

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, August 23, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Child Support Solutions Day was a success! The August 12<sup>th</sup> event at the Ohio Means Jobs Center helped collect child support payments, adjusted support plans if needed, gave attendees information about finding employment, and offered DNA testing.

During the ten hour one-day event, the Prosecutor's Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) assisted over 200 parents, resolved over 50 outstanding warrants, and helped reinstate drivers' licenses for over 100 non-custodial parents who owed back child support. Among those who attended were three non-custodial parents who owed a combined \$83,000 in back child support.

"This event is key in helping Summit County families. We were able to get desperately needed money to families as well as clear up any legal issues in a relaxed environment," said Prosecutor Walsh. "Coming to court to deal with child support issues can be very intimidating. This event provides an opportunity to make things right, and resolve any legal issues in one place."

Parents participating in the event were greeted by more than 75 volunteers and employees. Child support case managers were on hand to answer questions and make payment arrangements. In this setting, case managers were able to take the extra time to discuss a client's individual cases one on one, handle problems and clear any confusion.

--Continued--

The ultimate goal of Child Support Solutions is to get parents to support their children. Openly discussing individual cases and attempting to uncover and eliminate barriers to non-payment encourages parents to work together with CSEA to help them get on the right path to make regular and consistent child support payments.

This year, the FirstMerit mobile unit was parked outside the Ohio Means Jobs Center to assist parents in getting information about their credit scores as well as offering other financial services available.

Thank you to the many partners who continue to make this event successful each year. Organizations that assisted included the Summit County Sheriff's Office, the Summit County Fiscal Office, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Summit County Fatherhood Initiative, the Summit County Clerk of Courts, the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, Summit County Domestic Relations Court, The Ohio Means Jobs Center, and Oriana House.

#### **About CSEA**

The Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency collects nearly \$84 million annually and handles nearly 50,000 child support cases. Each year it establishes support orders for approximately 4,000 children. Since its inception in 2001, the Criminal Non-Support program has collected over \$39 million through its aggressive prosecution of individuals neglecting to pay child support. You can learn more about CSEA on its website: <http://co.summitoh.net/prosecutor/index.php/divisions/child-support-enforcement>.