

Winter 2022

The Cornerstone Connection

Serving Foster & Adoptive Parents

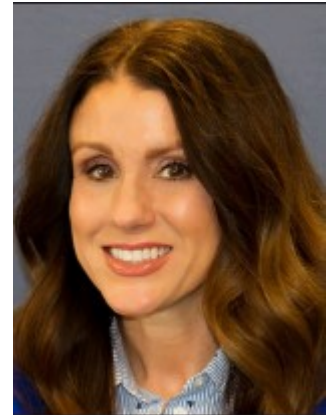
A publication of Stark County Job & Family Services'
Division of Children Services, Foster and Adopt



A Message From the Program Administrator

As we come to the close of the year and look forward to the future, I would like to take a moment to sincerely offer my gratitude to each and every one of you! **Thank you** for your continued commitment to the vulnerable children of Stark County.

Although this past year has offered many challenges for us all, I look forward to the future and brighter days ahead! I am excited to announce that we will be hosting the annual **Foster Parent Recognition Banquet** this year in person. The event will take place May 13, 2022 at Doubletree by Hilton Suites in downtown Canton. I can't wait to see you all in person again!



Stacy DeChellis, MSSA, LSW
Program Administrator of the
Permanency Area

Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure of serving in the role of Program Administrator for the Permanency Area. I have thoroughly enjoyed this department and working with all of our foster and adoptive families. Beginning in January, my position will change as I transition into the role of Program Administrator for the Ongoing Department.

My experiences in the Permanency Area have been invaluable to me, and I cherish the opportunities that I have had these past two years working with all of you. Thank you, again, for all that you do to help provide a loving and safe home for a child in need.

Sincerely,

Stacy DeChellis

thank
you!

National Adoption Awareness Month

November was National Adoption Awareness Month, a time dedicated to bringing awareness to more than 120,000 children in the U.S. waiting to be adopted from the foster care system.

Our agency celebrated the month with several virtual and in-person events:

- Staff from the Division of Children Services shared heartwarming video messages on social media, thanking all of our adoptive families.
- We hosted an Open House at the Cornerstone Building for potential foster and adoptive parents the first information meeting held in person since the pandemic.
- The Heart Gallery art exhibition was organized and is on display throughout Stark County, now through February (see more details on page 3).
- Our Permanency Department talked to the media to promote the month, including news stories on Channel 5 Cleveland News and WHBC's Jordan Miller Show.



Did You Know?

Stark County Children Services values the working relationship we have with you, our foster parents. We would like to share information with you about the children in agency custody. This information helps in understanding the children and families our agency currently serves and, ultimately, the children who need care.

2021 Statistics

- SCJFS averaged 362 children in agency custody
- About 37% (134) of children are living with relatives/kinship
- About 34% (123 children) are placed in Stark County foster homes
- The average age of children in custody is 7 years old
- The average time spent in foster care is 1 year
- Most children are in temporary custody, while 68 children are in permanent custody
- There will be 63 children adopted by the end of 2021



Mark your calendar: May 13

JOIN US!

Foster Parent Recognition Banquet

We are pleased to announce that our Annual Foster Parent Recognition Banquet will take place this year in person! As many of you know, this even has been canceled for the past two years, due to Covid-19.

Please join us at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 13, 2022 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 320 Market Ave. S., Canton, Ohio 44702.

Formal invitations will be mailed to you as we get closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating all our amazing foster families together!



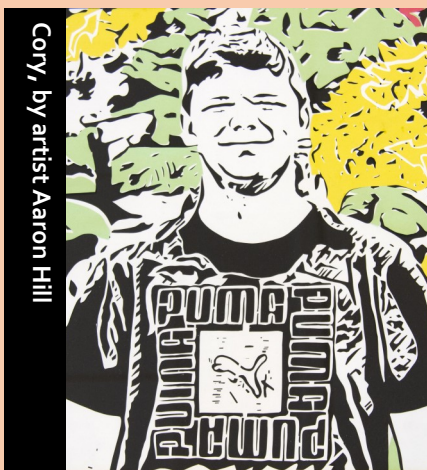
Stark JFS' Heart Gallery On Display

Stark County Job and Family Services is pleased to present the 2021 Heart Gallery art exhibition, in recognition of National Adoption Month!

The Heart Gallery pairs a local artist with a child waiting to be adopted, to create a unique and special portrait. The finished portraits will be displayed throughout Stark County for residents to view in person, along with information about each child and artist. Images of the portraits will also be featured in a short video, showcasing the children from the Heart Gallery who are looking for a forever family. The video will be available to view at StarkJFS.org and shared on facebook.com/SCJFS.

The Heart Gallery will include artwork by Christine Benner, Heather Bullach, Tim Carmany, Kat Francis, Aaron Hill, and Judi Krew. The community is invited to view the exhibition at the following locations:

- **November 22 to December 12, 2021:** The Little Art Gallery, North Canton Public Library , 185 N. Main St., North Canton, Ohio 44720
- **December 15, 2021 to January 2, 2022:** ArtsinStark Cultural Center for the Arts, 1001 Market Ave. N., Canton, Ohio 44702
- **January 11 to February 13, 2022:** Massillon Museum, 121 Lincoln Way E., Massillon, Ohio 44646



A Warm Welcome to Our Newly Licensed Families

Being a foster and adoptive parent is a unique experience. The journey can be both challenging and rewarding. Getting to know and staying connected with other foster and adoptive families is one of the best ways to find support and share celebrations. Our community is constantly changing and we want to provide an opportunity for our newly licensed families to introduce themselves:

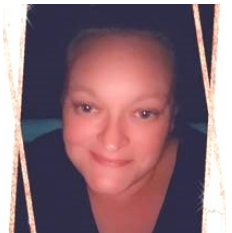


Meet the Sayre Family:

Lori and Derrick became licensed on May 4, 2021. Their love story began on a blind date, which is how they first met. They have three dogs and a bird (who talks!). The favorite vacation they ever went on was in a cabin, on a mountain, in the middle of nowhere.

Meet Brandie DeLong:

Brandi became licensed on May 28, 2021. She is a registered nurse with more than 20 years experience working in the health care field. She is currently not working, and is using her time to rediscover her love of art and painting. Brandi also loves to read and learn new things. She recently purchased a Circuit and enjoys making glasses and handmade gifts for friends and family.



Meet Jordan Bowman and Ryan Fuller:

Jordan (Corrine) and Ryan became licensed in on May 28, 2021. They first met in middle school and went on to attend homecoming and prom together. They have two dogs, two cats, and one turtle. Corrine and Ryan are both college graduates. They have no children of their own.

Meet the Braisted Family:

Benjamin and Jackelyn (Cortney) became licensed on June 1, 2021. Their family loves to be silly! They enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, such as playing/watching sports, going on bike rides, playing at the park, and having a nice fire in their backyard. They also like spending a lot of time and playing games with extended family and friends.





Meet the Wagner Family:

Kyle and Beth became licensed on June 24, 2021. They have three children named Blake, Wade, and Mya. Being active and spending time outdoors is important to them, they enjoy running, hiking, and playing in the backyard. They are a competitive family who loves to play games! The Wagner's are active members of the North Canton Chapel. They are pursuing foster care because of a calling placed in their hearts through their faith.

Meet the Montgomery Family:

Michael and Jessica became licensed on August 20, 2021. The couple has many hobbies including camping, hiking, swimming, board games, and sports. They also enjoy a good nerf war! In their spare time, they like to travel and go on adventures, usually visiting beaches. Recently, they went to Pennsylvania and explored caverns!



Meet the Miller Family:

Ivan and Amanda became licensed on September 9, 2021. They have four children named Anthony, Lonnie, Katrina Sue, and Jarred. Fishing is one of their favorite past times, which they do off their grandfather's pontoon boat. They are animal lovers, and currently have 99 animals that live on their 4.5 acres of land. Ivan and Amanda have the perfect land for sledding, it has hills on both sides!

Meet the Prisett Family:

Jared and Meredith became licensed on October 1, 2021. This past October, they traveled as a family together to Tanzania, Africa. They love movies, and usually on Friday nights they have a movie night with candy and popcorn. Everyone in the family plays a musical instrument, except Jared. However, Jared enjoys listening to everyone else play music! They are also huge Buffalo Bills football fans!



Meet the Tetreault Family:

Ryan and Reagan became licensed on October 6, 2021. They have been married since 2004 and have two children, a daughter and son. Their daughter, Isabelle, plays travel softball as a pitcher. She aspires to play in college someday! Isabelle is also a 4.0 student and loves politics. Their son, Mitchell, is a wrestler and football player. He loves to hunt, is a hard worker, and is on a competitive shooting team. Ryan is an electrician, and Reagan is a stay-at-home mom. Ryan coaches wrestling, softball, and teaches children's church. They feel so blessed by all the gifts God has given them.

*Thank you all for making a difference
in a child's life!*

Featured Foster Family:

*Meet Hannah, winner of the 2021 PCSAO
Rising Up and Moving On Award*



Hannah has worked hard to overcome numerous challenges and barriers in her life. Although difficult and heartbreaking at times, these experiences have helped shape her into the strong, determined, and compassionate young woman and mother she is now.

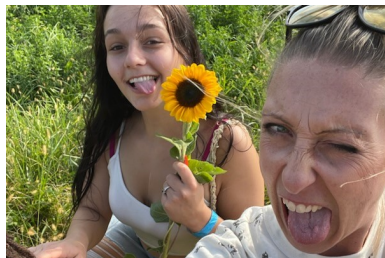
Maintaining her values has helped Hannah succeed on her own, and allowed her to provide her daughter with a better life than she had experienced growing up. As a young child, Hannah was separated from her parents and lost irreplaceable time with family to the prison and foster care system. She suffered a devastating loss with the death of her father, as he had been the most influential person in her life. She then bounced around the foster care system, experiencing several placement changes, city relocations, and custody episodes.

At sixteen years old, Hannah became pregnant. She had previously left the foster system in an AWOL episode, but took the initiative to come back into care for the benefit of her unborn daughter. She committed herself to doing the hard work, staying in one place, educating herself about becoming a mother, locating resources, and, most importantly, healing her childhood traumas.

Hannah and her daughter were placed in a residential setting where they could stay together. This provided her access to support and services, including the opportunity to finish high school and gain work experience. While in this placement, Hannah became connected with a Stark County foster family, Lindsay and Kyle Slutz. She and her daughter began completing visits and formed a close relationship with them. When Hannah was ready, they moved into the Slutz's home, where they received love and support. Hannah continued pursuing her education, obtained a drivers license and a car, and held a job where she worked 20-30 hours per week.

Hannah is now a high school graduate and has participated in the training of Franklin County CASA's and GAL's with the Ohio Youth Advisory Board. She is an advocate for herself, her daughter, and many others who are or have been a part of the foster care system. Hannah has emancipated from foster care and is working towards the goal of an adult adoption after falling in love with her forever family. She is a phenomenal young mother who cares for her daughter. She has never once let any obstacle hold her back.

Working towards a bright future, Hannah is currently enrolled at Stark State College where she studies Cosmetology. She is excited about the opportunities and experiences that lay ahead for her and her daughter. She is also very grateful to be supported by a loving family. Hannah's resiliency, hope, faith, and trust has led her to gaining two parents who love her unconditionally, and 8 brothers and sisters who remind her that she is never alone.



Foster Parent Recruitment

We hope you have noticed the presence of Stark County Children Services more in our local community! From newspaper articles to recruitment tables at events, the agency has been busy raising awareness about the need for foster families. We have participated in the following recruitment efforts this year:

- Up, Up, and Away 5K and Sponsor
- Hall of Fame Community Parade and Sponsor
- Louisville Constitutional Parade
- Hartville Flea Market
- Virtual Foster Parent Informational Sessions
- Redefining Recovery walk at Jackson Park
- Halloween Party hosted by JJK and Associates at Dogwood Park
- In-Person Foster Parent Informational Session
- Fall Fest hosted by Rivertree Canal Fulton and Canal Fulton Christian Fellowship
- Hollyday's Christmas in Massillon
- Provided recruitment shirts for all adult household members
- Canton Repository Newspaper ads
- Channel 19 news segment on the need for foster families in Stark County
- Direct mailing of postcards to 10,000 Stark County households
- Posting regularly on our Facebook and Instagram pages
- Channel 5 news segment on Adoption Awareness and Heart Gallery

We are looking for opportunities to meet and talk with potential foster and adoptive parents. If you have an event in your community, church, or school that you would like us to attend, please call Alisa Grass at 330-451-8905.

You can also help us spread awareness about foster care and adoption by following our social media pages and liking/sharing our posts. We are on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StarkFosterAdopt and Instagram at www.instagram.com/StarkCountyFosterAdopt.

Our goal for 2022 is to be out in the community even more. If you see us at an event, please stop and say "hi"!



TRAINING SCHEDULE: January-April 2021

January

995-19-DL3	VIRTUAL - Anxiety Disorders among Children and Adolescents Wednesday, January 5 6pm-9pm	Stacy Simera
923-FF6-S	Recognizing and Responding to Children who have been Sexually Abused Saturday, January 15 9am-4pm	Cece Norwood
924-FF7A-S	Understanding and Building Attachments Wednesday, January 19 6pm-9pm	Angie Irby
991-2-NOS	NCTSN's Caring for Children who have Experienced Trauma: Trauma 101 Wednesday, January 26 6pm-9pm	Brian Lowery

February

927-16	Welcome to my Home: How to foster a Child of a Different Race or Culture Thursday, February 10 6pm-9pm	Janice Williams
991-3-NOS	NCTSN's Caring for Children who have experienced Trauma: Understanding Trauma's Effects & Building Safe Place Monday, February 14 6pm-9pm	Brian Lowery
990-42-NOS	AHA Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid & CPR without Skills Testing Saturday, February 19 9am-1pm	Ronna Johnson
923-FF6-S	Recognizing and Responding to Children who have been Sexually Abused Saturday, February 19 9am-4pm	Cece Norwood

March

925-21	Do-able Discipline Saturday, March 5 9am-4pm	Jim Still-Pepper
985-7	Ignorance is Not Bliss: Teen Sexuality-Choices and Challenge Monday, March 7 6pm-9pm	Ronna Johnson
927-FF11-S	Cultural Issues in Foster Care: Dealing with The Dynamics of Difference Saturday, March 19 9am-4pm	Angie Irby
926-FF10-S	Defusing Crisis Situations Safely and Sanely Saturday, March 26 9am-4pm	Janice Williams

April

922-25	Strengthening the Child Welfare Team: Who, What, Where, When, and How for the Best Interest of the Child Saturday, April 2 9am-12pm	David Zidar
923-41	Intervention for Children who have Suffered Trauma Saturday, April 2 1pm-4pm	David Zidar
318-67-DL3	VIRTUAL-Boredom, Loneliness, Apathy: Helping Youth and Families Improve Wellness Thursday, April 7 6pm-9pm	LaToya Logan
923-FF6-S	Recognizing and Responding to Children who have been Sexually Abused Saturday, April 30 9am-4pm	Cece Norwood

**STARK COUNTY JFS, CHILDREN SERVICES DIVISION
JANUARY 2021 - ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY**

	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	EXT.	SUPV.		LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	EXT.	SUPV.
A	ADAMSON	ERICA	8130	PETRICINI	L	LAUGHLIN	MEIGHAN	8103	KINDY
	AMAN	SUSAN	8699	HANNAN		LELO	LINDA	8982	MCARTHUR
	ANDERSON	MARIANNE	8923	MYERS, E.		LOOMIS	JENNIFER	8789	GRASS
	ARMSTEAD	DIONNE	8142	MOORE		LOURY	NANCY	8764	STEVENS
	ASHLEY	JOSEPH	8878	GRASS		LUCAS	BRIAN	8933	MITCHELL, V.
B	BARCALOW	LAURA	8891	COMPTON	M	MACK	CARLA	8519	CARO
	BASH	SHERI	8731	CLIFFORD		MAHAFFEY-VELENYI	SHAWNI	8914	MYERS, E.
	BATES	KRISHINA	8144	SMITH, D.		MARTENY	JO	8584	STEVENS
	BAUMGARDNER	THEANA	8295	GOINS		MATHIEU	MAURISSA	8294	DEAN
	BEARD	KAREN	8700	HANNAN		MAYLE	TRICIA	8077	MYERS, R.
	BELL	IVY	8820	GRASS		MCALLISTER	TRACEY	8121	KENNEDY
	BERBARI	EMILY	8145	WILCOX		MCARTHUR	BREANNE	8717	GRIFFITH
	BIEHL	ZINA	8916	WATSON		MCCARTNEY	SARA	8644	DEAN
	BOWMAN	MIRANDA	3390	SMITH, M.		MCDUGAL	APRIL	8193	KINDY
	BROWN	KRISTAL	8149	CARO		MCGREW	MOLLY	8031	KENNEDY
C	CAMPBELL	ALICIA	8689	WILCOX		MCHADDON	BOBBIE	3390	SMITH, M.
	CAMPBELL	EMMA	8146	ROSA		MCLEOD	MONICA	3390	SMITH, M.
	CARO	ROSALIND	8869	SMITH, D.		MERRICK	KARI	8812	HILL
	CASTO	KALI	8136	MCARTHUR		MILLER	SHAWN	8836	PAUL
	CHAMBLISS	LINDA	8809	HILANEH		MITCHELL	MICHELLE	1718	WILCOX
	CHANEY	MONIQUE	8804	HOREY		MITCHELL	VICKI	8825	GRIFFITH
	CHENAULT	ADRIENNE	8834	CLIFFORD		MONTEERRUBIO-BRADY	MICHELE	8849	GOINS
	CITRARO	ANTHONY	8262	MITCHELL, V.		MOORE	CINDY	8650	HILANEH
	CLEAVANGER	EMILY	N/A	GRIFFITH		MORETTA	ANDREA	8055	WILCOX
	CLIFFORD	TERRELL	8913	HILANEH		MORRIS	KAMI	8146	ROSA
	COLEMAN	JERRY	8891	FORKAS		MYERS	BRITTANY	8827	MITCHELL, V.
	COMPTON	QUAY	8781	COLEMAN		MYERS	ELIZABETH	8837	GRIFFITH
	COULTER	SANDRA	3390	SMITH, M.		MYERS	LYNETTE	3390	SMITH, M.
	CRABLE	JULIANNE	1714	MYERS, R.		MYERS	ROB	8845	FORKAS
	CRAIG	AMY	8029	CLIFFORD	N	NEISEL	MICHELLE	8846	MYERS, R.
	CRUTCHLEY	KAREN	8897	KINDY		NICKOL	AMBER	8717	WILCOX
	CUMMINGS	JESSI	8904	MYERS, E.	O	OVERTON	LYNSEY	8802	PAUL
D	DAVENPORT	HAYLEE	8824	MYERS, E.	P	PANTZER	BREANNA	8858	WATSON
	DAVIES	PAIGE	8899	GOINS		PARIANO	RENEE	8781	COMPTON
	DAVIS	HALEY	8815	MOORE		PARILLO	MONICA	1713	DEAN
	DAVIS	SUSANNE	N/A	GRIFFITH		PAUL	MAGGIE	8718	HILANEH
	DEACON	ROSEMARY	3390	SMITH, M.		PETRICINI	SUZANNE	8147	GRIFFITH
	DEAN	JESSICA	1721	GRIFFITH		PHILLIPS	JAMES	8781	COLEMAN
	DECHELLIS	STACY	8842	MYERS, R.		PIERCE	HAILEY	8391	MITCHELL, V.
	DEMATTEIS	LAUREN	8523	MCARTHUR		POTWORA	CHRISTINE	8796	COMPTON
	DILLARD	ALEXIS	8505	STRICKLAND		POUNDS	WANDA	8221	WATSON
	DUNN	CAYLA	8681	HILL		POWELL	TIFFANY	8078	PETRICINI
E	EGGENSCHWILER	LISA	8841	CHAMBLISS	R	RALSTON	HOLLY	8881	SMITH, D.
	EITMAN	CHRISTINE	8839	GRASS		REITZ	FELICIA	8757	MITCHELL, V.
	EOFF	CRISTINA	8796	COLEMAN		REITTERER	EMILY	8985	MCARTHUR
F	FILM	JENNIFER	N/A	GRIFFITH		REYNA	ROBIN	8794	MOORE
	FLOTT	SHARMALEE	8246	HOREY		RICHARDSON	MIRANDA	8136	ROSA
	FORTUNE	JULIE	8398	CLIFFORD		RITCHEY	CAROL	8893	KENNEDY
	FOSTER	ANGELA	3390	SMITH, M.		ROSA	ANGI	8927	SMITH, D.
	FREDEY	KAYLA	8135	PETRICINI		RYZNER	BREANNA	8626	MYERS, E.
	FURR HAMILTON	DAPHNE	8746	HOREY	S	SANDERS	LATRESE	8148	CARO
	FYDA	OLIVIA	8770	PETRICINI		SCHOEPFNER	LAURA	8133	MITCHELL, V.
G	GABEL	KIMBERLY	8720	CHAMBLISS		SCHRADER	DIANE	8908	HANNAN
	GALES	EMILY	8034	KINDY		SHIPLETT	AMANDA	8412	MAYLE
	GLADIEUX	LISA	8767	HOREY		SHOWALTER	ANGELA	3390	SMITH, M.
	GOINS	SARAH	8209	DECHELLIS		SHRIGLEY	SANDRA	8698	HANNAN
	GORE	BARBARA	8898	HANNAN		SIEGFRIED	CHERYL	8143	CARO
	GOSMER	CASSANDRA	8635	PAUL		SIMMONS-HILL	PENNY	8851	KENNEDY
	GRASS	ALISA	8905	DECHELLIS		SINGLETON	MICHAEL	8838	MOORE
	GRICE	JENNIFER	8780	CLIFFORD		SLUSSER	MALLORY	8778	STRICKLAND
	GRIFFIN	CARMONA	8091	CHAMBLISS		SMITH	CHARISMA	8828	MCARTHUR
	GRIFFITH	CHELSEA	8844	MAYLE		SMITH	DENISE	8840	MAYLE
	GRIMES	HEATHER	8907	MOORE		SMITH	MINDY	8855	GRIFFITH
H	HADDEN	NICOLE	8673	WATSON		SNAUFFER	MICHELLE	8978	STEVENS
	HAMILTON	DARRYLANN	8106	HILL		SNYDER	BARB	8752	KANDEL
	HARHAY	JULIE	8137	MCARTHUR		SNYDER	SUE	8896	CHAMBLISS
	HASKELL	CATHY	N/A	GRIFFITH		SPEICHER	KATELYN	8870	HILL
	HESSON	KRISTI	8790	KENNEDY		STEIN	JENNIE	8822	MITCHELL, V.
	HETRICK	KIMBERLEE	1719	WILCOX		STEVENS	KERI	8593	SNYDER, B.
	HEWIT	ELIZABETH	8588	KINDY		STOFFER	DAWN KELLY	8629	WILCOX
	HICKEY	JACKIE	1702	MYERS, R.		STRICKLAND	KELLY	8959	GRIFFITH
	HILANEH	MARY	8109	MYERS, R.		SWOGGER	MYKUALLA	1720	MITCHELL, V.
	HILL	KOURTNEY	8199	GOINS	T	TEWANGER	JENNIFER	8773	CHAMBLISS
	HILL	PATRICIA	8729	DECHELLIS		TUCKER	JENNIFER	8850	SMITH, D.
	HOREY	JAMIE	8806	DECHELLIS		TUESDAY	ALLISON	8891	COLEMAN
	HORN	PAIGE	8695	CLIFFORD	V	VANGORP	HAYLEY	8205	CHAMBLISS
	HUMMEL	KATIE	8810	HOREY	W	WAGNER	KATIE	8146	ROSA
J	JARRETT	CASEY	8779	STRICKLAND		WALPOLE	DANNI	8518	STRICKLAND
	JEFFERS	JENNY	8918	MITCHELL, V.		WALTENBAUGH	BRANDON	8891	COLEMAN
	JEPSEN	KAREN ABEL	1705	MYERS, R.		WATSON	MONICA	8761	HILANEH
	JONES	DIANA	8754	CARO		WEIGAND	CHELCEA	8755	WATSON
	JONES	EMILY	8760	HILL		WEINGART	RACHEL	8594	GRASS
	JONES	KRISTY	8646	SMITH, D.		WHITAKER	CHERI	8291	HOREY
K	KEAGY	TAYLOR	N/A	SMITH, D.		WILCOX	KRISTEN	8044	GRIFFITH
	KENNEDY	SHANNON	8783	SMITH, D.		WILKERSON	CARLSON	8721	HILL
	KERRY	LISA	8751	GOINS		WILLIAMS	CARRIE	8709	STRICKLAND
	KINDY	DESIREE	8772	HILANEH		WILLIAMS	KELLI	8784	WATSON
	KINLOW	MAH	8848	PAUL		WILLIAMS	RACHAEL	8903	SMITH, D.
	KOSTELNIK	PENNY	8819	MYERS, E.	Y	YOUNG	ANITA	8782	MOORE
	KRAJCI	TINA	8033	KINDY					
	KROLL	LORI	8618	KINDY					
	KUHN	ANNA	8207	PETRICINI					

