



## A Celebration of Dreams

**Celebration of Dreams is an event honoring youth in Hamilton County's foster care system who have graduated from high school or completed a GED.**

### About Celebration of Dreams

Imagine trying to study and learn while dealing with the emotional after-effects of child abuse. Try keeping up with your class when you've moved every other year and been to five different schools. Think about facing life on your own – with no successful permanent connection to a family – at age 18 or 19.



That's the story behind the kids who are honored each year at Celebration of Dreams. And they're the success stories; many teens in foster care do not complete high school. Those who do are hungry for recognition. We can't erase the pain of the past, but we can support them as they face the future.

Celebration of Dreams is sponsored by the Foster Child Enrichment Council for youth in the custody of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services. It was held for the first time in 1999. In seven years, the event has recognized and assisted 300 foster youth. Supporters have given more than \$85,000 in financial and gift item donations.

The eighth annual Celebration of Dreams will be held June 19, 2007 at the University of Cincinnati. Dinner will be followed by an awards ceremony featuring student speakers. Guests will include foster parents, caseworkers and others who have made a difference in the students' lives. The graduates receive gift certificates and storage containers filled with school supplies, household necessities and personal care items. Those going on to higher education receive money for books from the Foster Child Scholarship Fund.

Celebration of Dreams has five purposes:

- **To honor foster youth** who have overcome extraordinary obstacles
- **To help them** as they embark on the next phase of their lives
- **To encourage people** who work on behalf of older youth in foster care
- **To showcase** the foster care system's success stories
- **To inspire other youth in foster care to graduate**

For more information, please call 389-0707.