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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE MIAMI VALLEY TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN APPLYING FOR LOW-COST HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THEIR KIDS

March 24, 2010 (Dayton, Ohio) – To help reduce the thousands of children in the Miami Valley who are without health insurance, Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley is holding education and enrollment events throughout the community to assist residents in learning about and enrolling in Healthy Start, an Ohio Medicaid program (SCHIP) which provides eligible Ohio children and pregnant women with free or low-cost comprehensive health coverage. At the events, families can determine if they are eligible for low-cost children's health insurance, learn about the benefits of coverage and get assistance with enrollment. A CSSMV representative will be available by appointment in Montgomery, Miami, Darke and Preble Counties. For information or to schedule an appointment, please call Sandy at 800-300-2937 ext 2126.

“We know children with health insurance are more likely to get preventive care, receive treatment for chronic illness and take prescription medications,” said Kim Custenborder, CSSMV Development Assistant. “Even if a family has been turned down in the past, we encourage them to come to schedule an appointment, call to learn more or go online. The program has changed and their situation may have too.”

There are many reasons children may not have health insurance – a parent or guardian lost a job, does not have health insurance at work or feels enrolling in health insurance would be a financial strain. Oftentimes, parents think they cannot get health insurance coverage for their kids because they make too much money. In fact, a family of four making up to \$3,675/month is still be eligible for Healthy Start.

Health Start covers much more than urgent health needs. Children enrolled in the program can get regular check-ups, dental care, immunizations and prescription drugs.

“Enrolling eligible kids into the Health Start program is a benefit for the entire community,” said Custenborder. “With healthier children and families, we are a stronger, better community.”

Parents and guardians can contact Catholic Social Services at 800-300-2937 ext 2126 or visit www.cssmv.org for details about eligibility requirements. Income will help determine the cost of coverage.

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About Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley annually assists over 22,000 area residents in Greene, Montgomery, Preble, Darke, Miami, Mercer, Shelby and Auglaize counties. Catholic Social Services operates a continuum of services including emergency food assistance, adoption, pregnancy counseling, infant foster care, senior case management, visiting and respite, refugee resettlement, supervised family visitation, early childhood education and daycare, mental health counseling and social service case management and support for young parents.

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