

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

Warren County DSS Newsletter

## TEAM SPOTLIGHT

### In this issue:

- Team Spotlight
- Welcome to the team new employees
- Anniversaries
- Events & Activities

**CELEBRATING TEAMS** Each Quarter we will be selecting a team of to showcase. This selected Team will be acknowledged for their Duties and responsibilities in the department. This will be a great chance to get to know each department and recognize what they bring to the table to support the mission of the department, and serve our community. Thank you for your **TEAMWORK!**

### Temporary Assistance

The Temporary Assistance unit consists of Social Welfare Examiners, an intake clerk and two Case Managers along with the Principal and two Senior examiners. Their responsibilities to the community include determining applicant's eligibility for various resources of the unit based on their income and circumstance, Some individuals qualify for cash assistance, rental and utility assistance, Emergency housing, food and medical determinations. maintenance of those who are open and receiving services, and case management, and emergency housing needs. In 2023 the Unit processed 1,830 applications and 1,399 unscheduled emergencies/ complex cases.

The TA Unit has had to overcome a large increase in walk-in emergencies and the constant adaptation to policy changes and directives that come from the state.

Principal Rebecca Hill says that she could not ask for a better team. "They all work together and are always willing to help each other.

We had a rocky start but were able to overcome it." She is most proud of her team's Cohesiveness, and ability to adapt. In December of 2022, Emergency and ongoing teams merged due to the increasing number of emergencies. It was not an easy transition, and took most staff out of their comfort zones. However, they are now in a pretty good place. They face challenges but usually find a way to overcome them. Rebecca reports "One of my proudest moments was when another supervisor stated in a supervisory meeting that they do not hesitate to tell their staff to go to TA if they are looking for a promotion and they would have never said that before."

Soon Rebecca will be transitioning to her retirement life and TA will be welcoming Ashley McKinney into the Principal Role. Just one more testament to this unit's ability to adapt to change.

Thank you for all your hard work in a unit who works with clients in crisis on a daily basis.



Carrie, Rezeily, Victoria, Natashya, Rebecca, Matt, Ashley, Dalie, Jackie, Brandi, Katilynn, Dianne, Christine

# Welcome to the Team

## New Employees to DSS .....

- Jaclyn DeZalia ~ TA Intake
- Christine Putney ~ Resource Clerk
- Kylie Campbell ~ CPS Caseworker
- Crystal Knox ~ CPS Caseworker
- Christine Beattie ~ Legal Secretary
- Grace Hatin ~ Foster Care Caseworker

# Farewell from the Team

- Rebecca Hill ~ Retiring from TA Principle on 8/20

We thank you for your years of dedicated employment here at DSS! Good luck in their next chapter.

# Quarterly Congratulations

## You've been with Warren County DSS How Long?

### July

Jordan Hill (FC) 1 yr  
Monique Genchi (Legal) 1 yr  
Ania Kostek (CPS) 1 yr  
Natashya Hyrny (TA) 2 yrs  
Dalia Wick (TA) 2 yrs  
Janet Pratt (PREV) 8 yrs  
Chris Connell (SNAP/HEAP) 8 yrs  
Joanne Collins ( CONF SEC) 16 yrs  
Julie Montero (ACC) 18 yrs  
Amy Brown (CH SUP) 30 years !!!!!

### August

Christy Decker (FC) 2 yrs  
Rezeily Santiago (TA) 3 yrs  
Cheryl Quagliana (LEGAL) 6 yrs  
Alice Chapman (APS) 8 yrs  
Whitney Cummings (FC) 10 yrs  
Lucinda Baker (CPS) 13 yrs  
Rachael DuRose (FC) 23 yrs  
Elizabeth Burke (FRAUD) 25 yrs!!!

### September

Shane Monahan (ACC) 1 yr  
Jolleen Johnson (CH SUP) 2 yrs  
Kim Lehrer (FRAUD) 10 yrs  
Jessica Missita (CPS) 11 yrs  
Tara Kelly (MA) 17 yrs  
Josette Kill (EMPL) 30 yrs !!!  
Julieanna Pearl (APS) 39 yrs!!!!

# Mindfulness

## Reflection

### Perspective

#### Did You Know?



Have you been Watching the 2024 Olympics in Paris? Simone Biles— US Olympic Gymnast is Breaking records. She is a real story of Resilience!!!

Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, the third of four siblings. Her birth mother, Shanon Biles, was unable to care for Simone or her other children. All four went in and out of foster care. In 2000, Biles' maternal grandfather, Ron Biles, and his second wife, Nellie Cayetano Biles, began caring temporarily for Shanon's children in the north Houston suburb of Spring, Texas, after learning his grandchildren were in foster care. In 2003, the couple formally adopted Simone and her younger sister Adria. Ron's sister, Harriet, adopted the two oldest children. ~ Wikipedia.

Simone reports falling in the love with the sport of Gymnastics while on a field trip with her daycare class. She has pursued her passion ever since. Simone's advice to young girls : "I would say dream big and then, after that, dream bigger, because I never thought in a million years I would be doing what I'm doing, because I just wanted to do college gymnastics, get a college scholarship. And then once I kind of got to that point, I was like, OK, how far can I take it?" said Biles of her advice to the next generation. "And, then, I got to worlds and I was like, OK, maybe the Olympics. And now it's like five years later, two Olympics.

While Simone was competing in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, She decided to take herself out of the competition due to some mental health symptoms she was having. Since then, she has come back stronger than ever and has added Mental Health Advocate to her "routine" . "It's really important to use that support system and know they're there for you and not against you, because at the end of the day, us as humans, we hate asking for help," Biles said. "We think we can do it on our own, but sometimes we just can't. So use every outlet given to you."

"I hope young women take away that it's OK to not be OK. You can speak up for what you believe, and you can do things alone," she said. "It's OK to kind of be shot down. Sometimes, it's how you get up and pick yourself back up and that women are strong alone. They don't really need anybody else. But I just think it's really powerful and the strength that you see in this show – hopefully, girls can walk away with that."

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"I've accomplished more than my wildest dreams. So dream big, then dream bigger after that." - Simone Biles (<https://olympics.com/en/news/simone-biles-exclusive-mental-health-advice-future>)



# FUN! MORALE! ACTIVITIES!

What's happening.....

## WAKE-UP WEDNESDAYS -

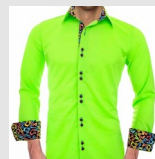
continue! 1st Wednesday of each month there will be fresh perked coffee for ALL to enjoy! (bring your own cup if you can!) 2nd floor hall

## Staff Appreciation Picnic 8/22/24

Gurney Lane 12-2 (do not punch out—join us for the whole 2 hrs.)

## 8/19-8/23 - End of Summer Spirit Week

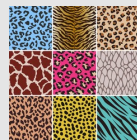
Monday - Summer is bright  
(wear bright colors )



Tuesday - Tropical Tuesday  
(Hawaiian Attire)



Wednesday - Walk on the wild side (animal print)



Thursday - Throwback Thursday  
( wear clothes from a different decade)



Friday - Fan Friday (support your favorite team)

