

**Ohio Department of Youth Services
NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Andrea Kruse
614 466-9854 / 614 395-2122
Andrea.Kruse@dys.ohio.gov

**Youth in State Juvenile Correctional Facilities Express Their Thanks to
Community Volunteers**

Columbus, Ohio – Juvenile offenders in the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) will get a chance to express their thanks to community volunteers at the upcoming ‘Expressions’ event. Youth representing each of the eight DYS facilities will showcase their personal expressions of faith, art, dance and music in an effort to recognize and honor community volunteers, as well as, to encourage new community partners.

“This event marks the third year of DYS formally acknowledging Ohio’s faith-based and community organizations who donate their time and talent to DYS and the youth who embrace their services,” said Thomas Stickrath, Director of DYS. “We see community volunteers as a critical partner for a youth’s reentry back to the community.” DYS has begun to recruit hundreds of volunteers from the community who desire to make a difference in the lives of the youth. Since August 2006, community volunteers have spent nearly 30 thousand hours working with DYS youth in the institutions and on parole.

‘Expressions: A Celebration of Lives Touching Lives’ Details:

When: September 13, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 2:30p.m.

Location: The Grand Valley Dale Ballroom
1590 Sunbury Rd, Columbus

Keynote Speaker: Chris Sanders
*Former Ohio State University and NFL Tennessee Titan football
player*

The Ohio Department of Youth Services is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio. DYS is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio’s 88 county juvenile courts. DYS operates eight correctional and rehabilitation facilities and provides parole services from six regional sites.

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