

Ohio First State to Implement Family Mapping Tool Technology to Connect Kids in Foster Care with Their Forever Families

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Matt Damschroder today announced that Ohio is the first state to implement two technology tools from Connect Our Kids. The tools will help children services professionals connect Ohio's 3,100 foster youth with their forever family. They were joined by partners from InnovativeOhio, Kinnect, the Dave Thomas Foundation, and Ohio CASA.

The Family Connections tool is a genogram or a digital diagram that illustrates an individual's family members. Professionals can use the desktop or mobile app versions to build family trees, find family contact information and engage family and supporters of children in foster care. The People Search tool uses public information from over 300



sources and covers over 3 billion people to exponentially expand the pool of potential kinship

caregivers, far beyond just those in current contact with the child's parents.

"Using this technology is data sharing at its best to help find forever homes for kids in foster care. It's going to save children's services professionals time and resources," said Lt. Governor Jon Husted. "Gone are the days of them having to map out family trees and contact information on their own. This technology does it for them, and then makes it widely available to other professionals."

"The Ohio Department of Job and Family Service facilitates many programs to help children find their forever home," said Director Damschroder. "From our '30 Days to Family' program, which focuses on placement of kids soon after they enter the foster system, to our Wendy's Wonderful Kids partnership, which helps older youth in the system, technology can help us be more successful in almost every way."

Children services transformation has been a top priority for the DeWine-Husted administration; innovative programs and technology such as Connect Our Kids, 30 Days to Family, Wendy's Wonderful Kids, and Ohio CASA are playing a significant role in reforming the foster care system and bettering the lives of Ohio's most vulnerable children.

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About the Partners:

30 Days to Family, a program brought to Ohio by then-Attorney General Mike DeWine and administered through Kinnect, collaborates with children's services caseworkers to identify a vast array of connections for children and families involved with children services. As a result of investments in the administration's state operating budgets, over the last four years, the program has grown to now cover 27 counties and helped 1,700 children in Ohio's children services system.

Ohio CASA helps Ohio children emerge from the trauma of abuse and neglect to an environment where they can thrive. They recruit, screen and train volunteers from local communities to help juvenile courts keep children safe and determine the child's best interest. As a result of investments in the administration's state operating budgets, Ohio CASA has gone from serving 36 counties to 57 counties and is looking to expand to 62 counties.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids, a program through the Dave Thomas Foundation, hires recruiters that are dedicated to finding permanent families for children in foster care who are most often overlooked. Recruiters use an evidence-based, child-focused recruitment model to find the right family for every child. As a result of investments in the administration's state operating budgets, since 2004, Wendy's Wonderful Kids has matched more than 2,000 Ohio children with families and helped more than 1,300 Ohio children find forever homes.



UCA Statement on Recent Tragic Incidents Involving Chinese International Students and Chinese American Youth

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United Chinese Americans (UCA) condemns all violence and racism, including the November 9, 2021 senseless killing of a Chinese international student in Chicago and the November 17, 2021 anti-Asian racial bullying and beating of Chinese American teenage students in Philadelphia transit trains.

While it is true these incidents are just a few among thousands, it is important to state that our communities are still validly feeling increased fear for their safety due to anti-Asian sentiments and violence: UCA demands public safety improvement from our government and leaders on all levels and calls for an all-of-society effort to invest more in educating and nurturing the next generation of Americans.

As an organization, we are reaching out to other ethnic groups, civic organizations, and political leaders in search of common solutions, honest dialogue, and bold public policy initiatives.

"On one hand, Chinese Americans are suffering from the much-increased hate incidents and violence, and on the other, we are forced to confront discrimination and mistrust by our own government due to the worsening US-China relationship," said UCA President Haipei Shue. "We

have no other choice but to organize and mobilize ourselves for a better future, a better today now!"

On Nov. 17, 2021, a video went viral online of a group of teenage girls on a Philadelphia train brutally beating a Chinese American girl, who had stepped in to help Chinese American boys the group had just assaulted.

On Nov. 9, 24-year-old Shao Xiong 'Dennis' Zheng, a University of Chicago graduate student from China, was killed during a robbery for his cell phone near campus. Zheng's killing was the third killing involving a University of Chicago student this year - one of the other victims killed in January was Yiran Fan, a Ph.D. student also from China.

Shue said, "These tragic and disturbing events only spur us to do more to reduce violence, end Asian hate and racism, and advocate for radical change for the sake of our youth."

Visit the UCA website at <https://ucausa.org/>. Find information, help, and resources via UCA's Find Help & Resources webpage at <https://ucausa.org/find-help-resources/>. See where Asian American history curriculum is federally and in your state via the UCA website at <https://ucausa.org/advocacy-for-asian-american-studies-in-school-curriculum/>.

United Chinese Americans (UCA)



United Chinese Americans
美国华人联合会

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Today, all Giving Tuesday gifts will be MATCHED— dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 by one of UCA's generous donors.

Your gift today will provide the lifeline for UCA to better fulfill her mission to serve, lead and inspire our community. UCA has been fighting to protect the civil rights of Chinese Americans, impact public policy, especially on Capitol Hill, train next generation for their leadership, and define and nurture a strong and proud Chinese American identity, culture and way of life.

Support UCA and be part of our civic movement!!

Please don't wait — donate now on giving Tuesday!

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捐款鏈接：<https://ucausa.org/uca-2021-holiday-fundraising/>

With gratitude,
Haipei Shue

UCA (United Chinese Americans)



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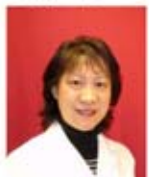
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