

*Jewish Family Services is in the news as a part of the solution for unemployment (June 1, 2007).*

# The Columbus Dispatch

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COMMENTARY

## Deported family 'trying to get by'

*Friday, June 1, 2007 3:35 AM*

BY ANN FISHER



It's time to review topics from columns past.

Several readers asked for news of the Petcus in Romania. On Christmas Day, I wrote about how a paperwork error had led to the family's deportation from the United States.

The Cleveland-area family of four was flown to detention centers in Texas and eventually returned to Romania, where they remain. They e-mailed me on May 13: "We are here in Romania just trying to get by. If you are interested on hearing our story about how it was in Jail in Texas and about how they treated us and more just please e-mail us back."

I responded and await their return missive.

On Dec. 12, I wrote about Keith A. Yocum, who a year ago joined a work-force re-entry program for displaced professionals. By December, he had a good job. He still does.

This week, Yocum returned to Jewish Family Services in Bexley for a reunion with fellow job-seekers at a weekly meeting of Strategic Utilization of Career Centered Employment Support Services.

The acronym, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., says it all. This week, the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation announced that it would renew a one-year federal grant for the program, which is fast approaching its targeted 92 job placements.

Colleen Helm is among a later batch of job-seekers. The respiratory therapist issued a tearful thanks to the group on Wednesday. "I'd be walking down 5th Avenue with a shopping cart and a bag if I hadn't been here."

She accepted a job offer yesterday.

On May 13, I joined about 20 men, women and children at a street corner in Worthington. As planned, we stood silently for five minutes beginning at 1 p.m. Afterward, one of the participants recognized me from the May 9 column about

Standingwomen.org, the Web site that was created to promote the Mother's Day movement to imagine a better world.

The gentleman asked me, "So, what's next?"

Good question.

The Ohio State University organizers who birthed the

Standingwomen.org movement now have established a blog for that discussion. Go to [www.standingwomen.blogspot.com](http://www.standingwomen.blogspot.com) for a good conversation and lots of links to other interested groups.

Some readers responded to my May 25 column that there are pesticides for the dreaded emerald ash borer. The problem is that you would have to treat the trees forever, an impractical tactic for most.

Other readers called or e-mailed me about the Veterans of Foreign Wars Buddy Poppy fundraiser for needy veterans. They

told me that the American Legion also promotes the fundraiser. I chose to focus on the founding organization for the May 23 column.

By the way, the folks at VFW Post 3441 on Clarendon Avenue told me they were thrilled with the emotional, not to mention financial, response. Thanks to all who gave.

On my return trip from the post on Monday, I welcomed the brand-new sidewalks that line nearly 2 miles of Briggs Road. Brenda Castorano had campaigned for the improvement since 2000, when her 15-year-old daughter was struck and killed by a car as she walked home from school.

I wrote about Mrs. Castorano on March 17, 2006, and was glad to see that Mayor Michael B. Coleman included her in a community celebration this week.

The city spent \$6.6 million on the entire project. Brenda Castorano gave so much more.

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