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Cooperative Extension  
ULSTER COUNTY

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Community Support for Foster Care** *(Free lunch & learn explains the role community members play)*

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and the Ulster County Department of Social Services are putting up help wanted signs in the Accord-Kerhonkson area. But instead of the usual signs posted for job seekers, these signs are asking people to: "Give Back," "Change Someone's Life," and "Help Children." Its all part of a public outreach campaign informing people about the value of foster care. On Wednesday, March 23, 2005 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm at the Town of Rochester Community Center in Accord a presentation will take place as part of this foster care awareness project. A light lunch will be served as attendees watch a high quality, moving presentation created by professional videographer and foster parent, Cynthia Baer. Currently there are approximately 200 children in foster care in Ulster County. This informal session is not designed specifically to recruit foster care providers, but rather is intended to discuss the need for foster families, the roles community members play in helping agencies to meet this need, and the supports community members can provide.

According to Corinne A. Lesko, Foster Home Recruiter, "We're trying to spark a conversation in communities throughout the county regarding the joys, challenges and rewards of foster parenting. We're seeking to engage business leaders and those people who are active in community and faith-based organizations in an honest open dialog about foster care with the idea that they will then go back to their constituencies and keep the conversation going. I'm grateful to Cornell Cooperative Extension's Human Development Program and the Town of Rochester Youth Department for joining this effort for children" The lunch and program are free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Please call Barbara Grumberg, Cornell Cooperative Extension at 340-3990. For more information about foster care contact, Corinne Lesko, 334-5597.

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