

# UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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John Holtkamp, *Director*

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## News Release

### **John Holtkamp is Named New DSS Director**

**March 13, 2012, Monroe, NC** – John Holtkamp has been appointed director of the Union County Department of Social Services.

Holtkamp comes to Union County from Durham County, N.C. where he served as division director for Child, Adult and Family Services. During his two years with Durham County, one of Holtkamp's passions was to find a "forever" home for every child. Emphasis was placed on making families stronger, bringing in extended family and community supports and achieving permanency for children. While he was with Durham County, the number of children in foster care was reduced by more than 25 percent.

In 2011 Durham County had a total of 83 children come into foster care and 117 children leave foster care. The overall number of foster children declined to under 160, the lowest number of children in care in more than 20 years. More than 50 adoptions also were achieved and maintained with no disruptions.

Holtkamp previously served as a county director in Ohio for seven years where he achieved similar results; leading his county to the lowest rate of foster placements, the highest rate of adoptions and the highest level of federal reimbursement in the state of Ohio. His county was named as a "Hub of Excellence" by the Ohio Department of Child and Family Services.

John served two tours with the Red Cross in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as a mental health volunteer. He takes special pride in his years as a Sunday School instructor in Ohio and was also the Ohio/West Virginia regional director for Exchange Clubs. He served as the disaster coordinator for Logan County, Ohio and also worked on Ohio's State Child Fatality Review team.

Holtkamp describes Union County as a "Goldilocks" county. It's close enough to the urban world, but maintains its essential rural nature.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected to be the next director of Union County DSS," Holtkamp said. "I know the county and the agency have a long and strong history of serving those in need. We will continue to serve those in need, but also be frugal with the resources entrusted to DSS."

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