

**Daniel P. Vrakas**  
County Executive



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** Friday, August 22, 2008  
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**Foster Care Picnic Celebration**

Waukesha, WIS. – The Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services held an appreciation event for nearly 200 foster parents and children at Fox Brook Park in Brookfield on July 31 from 1:30 – 8:00 p.m.

The Jack Safro Motorcars sponsored event provided foster parents and the children under their care with an opportunity to relax, swim, eat a picnic dinner, listen to music, build sand castles, try paddle boats, play sand volleyball and bocce ball, get their faces painted, and participate in other organized activities.

“Foster parents are truly special people that help fill a critical gap in our community by providing the guidance, mentoring and love that children need while family structures are repaired so that they can be reunited with their parents,” said County Executive Dan Vrakas. “I am truly thankful for the support that foster parents give to the children in their care. I hope that our annual appreciation event fully demonstrates our gratitude to this amazing network of caregivers.”

For the past three years, Jack Safro Motorcars has made a significant cash donation to cover expenses associated with this fun afternoon and evening in the park. Company representatives Don Prissel, Service Director, and Jackie Prissel, Human Resource Specialist, attended the event and received a plaque of appreciation for their corporate commitment to and support of the county’s foster care program.

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***“Foster Families Recognized at Picnic Celebration,” continued...***

“Jack Safro Motorcars has a long history of serving customers at its dealerships throughout southeastern Wisconsin,” said Jim Tessmer, vice president of the organization. “We remain committed to this area and find it important to give back to our community in ways that enable us to make a real difference. Our company is proud to support foster families and sincerely hopes that everyone had a wonderful time socializing and enjoying the park.”

In addition to support from Jack Safro Motorcars, more than 50 restaurants, salons and spas, retailers, events and attractions, sports teams, and a Wisconsin Dells based resort gave in-kind donations in the form of gift cards and entrance tickets to event coordinators to give away to families as door prizes.

Foster care provides children with a temporary home and family when their parents are unable to meet their needs and keep them safe. It gives these children a stable, secure and nurturing environment while their birth parents work on improving their situations so that their families can be reunited.

Currently, Waukesha County has 118 foster families and is always looking for more committed people to help out in this capacity. If you are interested or would like more information about it, please call the Foster Care Program at (262) 548-7212 or visit the Department of Health & Human Services online through the county’s website at [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov).

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**Pictures for publication use by the media:**



Larry Taylor and adopted daughter Simi.



Don Prissel of Jack Safro Motorcars listens as HHS Manager Jesse Mireles reads the Plaque of Appreciation.