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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE: June 4, 2015**

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**RE:** Washington County Family Center Graduation

**Status: For Immediate Release**

The Washington County Family Center held its annual graduation celebration on May 21, 2015. The celebration honored 22 parents of young children who earned their Maryland High School Diploma. Those honored included teen parents from six Washington County high schools as well as five who earned their GED or external diploma through their participation in educational programs at the Family Center. Student speakers, Rose Ross, Sade Holmes, Janee' Tolson, and Allison Shrader shared their inspirational stories of perseverance and determination with an audience of parents and community supporters.

The Washington County Family Center is part of the Maryland Family Network of support centers and is a program of the Washington County Department of Social Services. The Family Center provides an opportunity for new parents to finish their high education, receive parenting education, and resolve barriers to employment in an educational setting where their children are on site in the facility day care room. Participants must have a child who is from birth to age four.

This year the Family Center provided parenting, education and child development services to 107 adults and 98 children.

For more information about the Washington County Family Center, please contact Dori Yorks, Director of the Family Center, at 301-790-4006.

*The Washington County Department of Social Services is a field office of the Maryland Department of Human Resources under the direction of Governor Larry Hogan, Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, and Secretary Sam Malhotra.*

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