

**NOTE:** “(We’re) changing the thinking here; this agency is about kids, family, community and that revolves around everything we do.”



September 2, 2012

# State Leader: Kids Need Compassion

## 5 QUESTIONS: Harvey J. Reed

*Harvey J. Reed, director of the Ohio Department of Youth Services, is one of the highest-ranking Southwest Ohioans in the administration of Gov. John R. Kasich.*

By Paul Kostyu

COLUMBUS — Every day, Harvey J. Reed is one of the 95.7 percent of Americans the U.S. Census Bureau says commute to work. But Reed is one of just 8 percent who take 60 minutes or more – in his case about an hour and 40 minutes – to get there. That’s because as director of the Ohio Department of Youth Services, Reed travels 94 miles each day, from Blue Ash to Columbus. Then back again. Reed is one of the highest-ranking Southwest Ohioans in the administration of Gov. John R. Kasich. Kasich appointed Reed, a Cincinnati native who grew up in Evanston, as the department’s director in March 2011. After earning a degree in criminal justice from University of Cincinnati, he’s spent 34 years working in Ohio’s juvenile corrections system. Before the state job, Reed, a Republican, was superintendent of the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center.

**QUESTION: Are you worried about a recent study by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine that found a long commute by car not only takes hours out of your day, but could take years off your life?**

**ANSWER:** I balance my days by scheduling, getting eight hours of sleep, and building in time for rest by sometimes leaving early and taking long weekends. The commute forces me to end my day at a reasonable time and keeps me from trying to get it all done in one day. I include time in the day for me.

**Q. What attracted you to work in youth services?**

**A:** Surprisingly, my father worked in adult probation for years. He was director of the Boys Club of Cincinnati. He was involved in youth camps and all that. He always came home happy. He enjoyed what he did. So this service thing was just there. I grew up with a lot of guys who went “south of the border.” In one of my (UC) classes we toured Lebanon (Correctional Institution) and people (said) “Hey, Harv how you doin’?” I thought they were in the Air Force. They were incarcerated.

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