

# **NEWS** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***OHIO NETWORK FOR THE CHEMICALLY INJURED***

**for further information contact: Toni Temple**

### **LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR CHEMICALLY INJURED MEETS IN CLEVELAND METROPARKS FOR DAY OF RECREATION**

The Cleveland-based Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured recently held the organization's first annual picnic at the Redwing Reserved Picnic Area in the Hinckley Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks System. The outing was concerned only with outdoor sports activities, card and board games, swimming and boating, and gave its growing membership an opportunity to socialize on a person-to-person basis in a safer environment.

Gift certificates were provided by a number of local merchants who offer a variety of organic foodstuffs and products which do not contain dyes, preservatives, and other chemicals or substances which could affect human health. Contributors included Heinen's and Rini-Rego Supermarkets, the Sausage Shoppe, Michaels Bakery, Hobarts, Nature's Bin and the Bavarian Pastry Shop. Cleveland Metroparks donated a private picnic facility at no charge to this non-profit support group as did the local jazz duo Silverthornes who entertained the gathering.

(more)

The ONFCI is a support group and advocate for those Ohioans who suffer health problems from exposures to the wide range of toxic substances found in our everyday environment. ONFCI emphasizes that the complaints of chemical victims should not be dismissed as imaginary ailments but are indeed actual. Recent studies by various government health agencies, scientific associations and medical societies prove conclusively that this problem is much more widespread than it was previously thought to be.

Toni Temple, spokeswoman for ONFCI, notes that people can suffer ill effects from many of the items they have daily contact with in addition to the chemicals added to food and beverages and the commonly recognized pollutants such as smog, fertilizers, pesticides and other man-made substances. She mentions that those with MCS, when exposed to cosmetics, perfumes, hair sprays, deodorants, nail polish and other personal products, experience symptoms which may include skin rashes, breathing difficulties, arthritis and cognitive disability. Some victims, she relates, can wear only clothing made from natural fibers, which are increasingly difficult to find in retail outlets. "It's an ongoing task to educate not only the public at large but also the business and medical communities that this problem does in fact exist", she says.

Anyone interested in this support group or in learning more about this chemical problem can send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ONFCI, P.O. Box 29290, Cleveland, Ohio 44129.

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