



# The Court Reporter

## A Message From Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

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Members of the American Corrections Association (ACA) visited the Juvenile Court and the Detention Center to perform a comprehensive examination of the methods of operation in the Detention Center. I was very encouraged with the feedback we received from the audit team. They indicated that the staff of the Center and the services they provide to the youth placed there met or exceeded the ACA's strict standards and it appears the first major hurdle toward re-accreditation has been cleared.

Three years ago, the Court first sought accreditation from the ACA for our Detention Center. After a rigorous audit of operations, we were approved. But, perhaps, more gratifying than that is the manner in which the leadership and the staff members in the Detention Center have maintained those standards and continue to seek ways to improve on them. It is equally gratifying that the auditors noted that, as well.

Also in this edition of the Court Reporter, there is an article about the Women's Board to the Juvenile Court observing its 60th year at the Court. Words can't adequately describe the appreciation I have for the Women's Board. Their generosity, their caring, and their commitment to the Court and the youth in Detention is incredible. I look forward to continuing to work with and support the members of the Women's Board as they continue to provide a helping hand to our Court.



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



*Linda Tucci Teodosio*

## Court Seeking Detention Center Re-Accreditation

The Summit County Juvenile Court's Detention Center is on the threshold of earning re-accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA). Superintendent Melissa Gerney and Detention Center staff had to demonstrate that the standards met by the Court three years ago were maintained as the Court sought its first request for re-accreditation.

The ACA dispatched three auditors to examine the Detention Center's application: Bill Davis from Florida who chaired the audit team, Janine Farr from West Virginia who oversaw the medical specifications, and Upendra Katragadda from Texas, who oversaw the Detention audit.

The first order of business was assuring Detention Center operations met the 31 mandatory standards necessary for the audit to resume. Falling short of any of the 31 would have resulted in an immediate halt of the audit. Obviously, the center was in 100% compliance.



ACA Audit Chairman Bill Davis discusses audit findings with Court staff.

Next, the auditors went down a checklist of 380 standards required by the ACA. A correctional unit seeking re-accreditation must be in 90% compliance. The Detention Center graded out at 99.7% compliance.

"That is an unusually high score," stated Davis. "It shows that you realize the process never ends. That's a good thing; it shows that you take this very, very seriously. We take this audit very seriously, too. We want to leave you stronger, and I believe you have achieved that."

Also noted during the exit briefing was the good impression the auditors had of the Detention Center's educational and medical services. Both areas were found well within acceptable range.

"The needs of the youth in Detention are definitely being met," said Farr. "The great thing about our visit is that it taught me something. The Therapy Room in Detention where youth can go to calm themselves is a wonderful idea. The way the mental health of the individual is approached is very impressive."

Davis indicated that same opinion was shared by the three auditors in their general view of the Detention Center.

"It was a wonderful audit," he said. "It was an eye-opener to witness the services that are provided in your Detention Center. That is a testament to Judge Teodosio, Melissa Gerney, and the administration here."

The final hurdle for re-accreditation will be in August in Minneapolis when representatives from the Court will take part in a panel hearing conducted by the ACA, where the Court expects its application to be confirmed.

Superintendent Gerney expressed her gratitude to the auditors.

"I want to thank all three of you. You have been truly helpful to us," she said. "While I'm glad the audit is completed I look forward to being even better the next time we apply for re-certification."



Lisa DiSabato-Moore, far left, Upendra Katragadda, Judge Teodosio, Bill Davis, Janine Farr and Melissa Gerney gather after the exit briefing.

## Women's Board Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Their motto is, "You never stand so tall as when you bend down to help a child."

For 60 years at the Summit County Juvenile Court, that has been more than a motto, it has been the mission of the Women's Board. The Women's Board is a unique organization, as the sole purpose of its members is to provide support to Court staff and the youth who are placed in the Detention Center. That support has entailed volunteering at the Court, conducting fundraising projects that provide donations to the Court beyond the scope of public funding and offering events for Court staff and detention youth.



Shown here are some of the vegetables and flowers grown in the greenhouse purchased by the Women's Board.

Their generosity has involved underwriting capital improvement projects at the Court to purchasing everyday necessities for youth, such as eyeglasses, clothing, or household items and bedding. Among the major projects include the creation of a garden in an enclosed area near the Detention Center, where the youth plant, nurture, cultivate and harvest vegetables and flowers. The produce is used to help supply the Detention Center cafeteria's salad bar and the flowers are planted throughout the Court campus. The gardening project became so popular that it is now a year-round endeavor made possible after the Women's Board purchased a greenhouse so youth could continue the growing process during the winter months.



Pictured are some of the current members of the Women's Board

The Women's Board is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Normally, they hold their Fashion Show and Silent Auction fundraiser in the afternoon of the last Thursday of April. This year, to mark the milestone, the event has been moved to the evening. It will take place April 26th at Guy's Party Center on Waterloo Road. Doors will open at 5:30pm with buffet dinner scheduled for 6pm. Silent Auction and raffle opportunities are offered to guests. The cost is \$30 per ticket.

If you are interested in attending the event, please contact Janice Raynor at 330-655-7651 or Woody Tyrrell at 330-643-5378.

The organization is also always looking for new members who embrace their commitment and care for the members of the Juvenile Court staff and the youth who become Court-involved. For membership information, please contact Lee Heid at 330-836-1541 or by email at leerider6149@gotmail.com.