
THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION
LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO, JUDGE



2009 Annual Report of the Summit County Juvenile Court



Turning lives around one child at a time.

Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge
Robert Bickett, Court Administrator
David Horner, Assistant Court Administrator
Steve Stahl, Assistant Court Administrator

Summit County Juvenile Court Vision Statement

" The Summit County Juvenile Court strives to serve the best interests of our children through outreach, early intervention, community education and innovative programming, while fairly administering justice to all whose lives are impacted by the juvenile justice system."

A Message From Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



One of the most heartening experiences I've had as a Juvenile Court Judge is the willingness of our staff and the agencies and people with which we work on a daily basis to accept and embrace new ways to approach our jobs.

I do not believe it is hyperbole to say that we are on the threshold of a new era in juvenile justice. Research has emerged that compels us to change the way we consider juvenile crime and our at-risk youth. Previously, mental health issues were considered an ancillary contributor to a youth's unruly behavior, but more and more evidence reveals that many times it is at the core of the youth's behavioral issues. But along with this evidence, new methods have also been developed to detect such tendencies before they result in unlawful acts and how to use these methods to assist in the rehabilitation of youth so they won't recidivate.

As we have done in the past, the Court will continue to seek new programming. This Court wants to be a leader others can look to for example and expertise, whether our programs help youth across the street or across the country. We feel we are in the process of doing just that with the implementation of New Paths Developmental Disabilities probation and our Responder Program and continue to do so with our nationally-recognized Crossroads Program.

Of course, the dispensing of justice remains the Court's primary function. The Court will continue to hold youth accountable for their actions and level the appropriate disposition. But once disposition is rendered, it is our obligation seek the best methods of rehabilitation to attempt to right the direction the youth is headed and to direct his or her behavior away from the Court and toward a productive life.

Magistrates



Tavia Baxter: Magistrate Baxter is responsible for hearing the unruly, truancy and adult failure to send cases.



Katherine Bertsch: Magistrate Bertsch hears abuse, dependency and neglect cases as well as legal custody cases. She has developed an expertise in the area of child support and reviews this difficult issue for the Court. Magistrate Bertsch became Chief Magistrate of the Dependency/Neglect docket in August of 2009.



Bradford Christman: Magistrate Christman joined the Court following an extensive career in child welfare, including service in the Juvenile Division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and in the Legal Department of the Children Services Board. He hears abuse, neglect and dependency cases as well as private legal custody cases.



Thomas Freeman: Magistrate Freeman is responsible for a delinquency docket. He has also worked with the Court's Developmental Disabilities Committee and now oversees that docket which is known as "New Paths."



Kristin Maxwell: Magistrate Maxwell has a delinquency docket. She also hears cases where families have involvement with dependency and neglect cases and delinquency matters to provide consistent support and direction to those families. Magistrate Maxwell also oversees probation cases for pregnant girls and teenaged mothers and serves as the Crossroads Magistrate.



Robert McCarty: Magistrate McCarty is overseeing the accreditation process for the Court. He convenes and presides over the meetings of the Accreditation Committee and writes policies for the Court and Detention. Additionally, Magistrate McCarty deals with all of the records requests that come to the Court. He handles a dependency, abuse and neglect docket as well as private legal custody cases.



Denise McGuckin: Magistrate McGuckin hears all types of delinquency cases. Magistrate McGuckin's responsibilities include overseeing the Court's Re-entry Program which began in 2008. She became Delinquency Chief Magistrate in August 2009.



Mary Ann Mendlik: Magistrate Mendlik oversees the objections to Magistrate's decisions that come before the Court. She monitors their timeliness on the objections and responses and provides extensive legal research for all aspects of Court operations. Magistrate Mendlik monitors the Court's cases pending before the Ninth District Court of Appeals and updates all judicial officers as to new case law. She also supervises any legal interns assigned to the Court. Magistrate Mendlik handles the Court's traffic docket.



Rita Rochford: Magistrate Rochford reviews cases of youth that are in Planned Permanent Living Arrangement with the Children Services Board. As the director of the Citizens Review Board, she works with the volunteers who monitor children in Summit County Children Services' permanent custody. She handles a delinquency docket and also serves as Teen Court Magistrate.



Esther Thomas: Magistrate Thomas hears a full docket of dependency, neglect and abuse cases as well as private legal custody cases.



John Vuillemin: Magistrate Vuillemin was the Chief Magistrate for the Court before retiring in July 2009. He presided over dependency, neglect and abuse cases and private legal custody cases.



James Whited: Magistrate Whited hears a full docket of dependency, neglect and abuse cases as well as private legal custody cases. Magistrate Whited also oversees the Court's Mediation Program.

Court Finance

*The 2009 Summit County Juvenile Court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled **\$13,528,398.00**.*

		Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator	
		Reclaim Ohio	\$2,799,193
		Title IV-E	732,378
General Office/Judicial	\$3,113,945	Title XX/TANF	565,000
Probation/Administration	3,196,653	Title XX/PRC	350,000
Detention Center	2,719,804	Other	51,425
Total County funding:	\$9,030,402	Total State/Federal Grant funding:	\$4,497,996
		Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$9,646,214
		Contract Service	2,185,408
		Other	1,696,776
		Total Expenditures:	\$13,528,398

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED

SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

<u>SERVICE PROVIDER</u>	<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
--------------------------------	-------------------------------

Day Treatment

East Akron Community House	250,000.00
----------------------------	------------

Akron UMADAOP	80,000.00
---------------	-----------

Electronic Monitoring

Oriana House, Inc.	60,000.00
--------------------	-----------

Educational Services	80,000.00
-----------------------------	-----------

Out of Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter	137,750.00
---------------------------------------	------------

Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family	100,000.00
--	------------

And Children First Council/Summit County

Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement

Short Term out of home placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment	98,550.00
-------------------------------	-----------

CROSSROADS Program

Child Guidance & Family Solutions	70,000.00
-----------------------------------	-----------

Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services

Community Health Center	32,000.00
-------------------------	-----------

Akron Health Department	55,346.00
-------------------------	-----------

Mentoring

CYO and Community Services	25,000.00
----------------------------	-----------

Mental Health Counseling

Child Guidance & Family Solutions	25,000.00
-----------------------------------	-----------

Competency Evaluations

Summit Psychological Associates	15,000.00
---------------------------------	-----------

Community Service/Restitution Program

Funds to victims	50,000.00
------------------	-----------

Citizen's Review Board Coordinator	59,203.12
---	-----------

Long Term out of Home Placement

Various Placement Agencies	475,000.00
----------------------------	------------

Diversion Programming

Distributed in varying amounts to 14	199,576.00
--------------------------------------	------------

Police Departments and Sheriff's Office

Additional 2009 Funding

Prepared by Grants Administrator Woody Tyrrell

In addition to the county's general fund and formula funding from state/federal sources that sustain its operation, the Court actively pursues additional revenue through local, state and federal agency grant funding. These funds are typically used to create, maintain or expand programs at the Court aimed at meeting our goal of assuring that each child entering the Court leaves with increased opportunity for success in school, work and the community. **In 2009, grant funding committed to the court for special programming totaled \$1,100,290.00. A total of 17 full- and part-time court positions and several positions for community service providers are supported by these funding streams.** The programs assisted by this funding are:

Intensive Probation Supervision, \$46,126.00: The Court's Probation Officers offer intense services and case management to high risk offenders. Most Intensive Probation cases are placed on a suspended commitment through the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). All participants are engaged in a minimum of 32 hours per week in structured activities. **The funding is provided by the Department of Justice through its Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.**

Juvenile Court Health Advocacy Program—HIV Prevention \$5,955: Trained Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio (PPNEO) facilitators delivered HIV/STD Awareness classes in Detention on Saturday mornings in 2008. Tests of basic knowledge were administered immediately before and again after each session to measure gains in understanding of prevention. HIV/STD testing is offered in detention weekly and as of December, 2008 is open to the public every 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings in the FRC. All testing is free, confidential, anonymous and conducted by certified Community Aids Network and PPNEO staff. **Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Health and administered through the Akron Health Department.**

The Child Advocate Team, \$196,016.00: Provides intensive case management services to children both in temporary and permanent Children Services custody to help ensure that the best interests of dependant, neglected or abused children are protected and presented at hearings to the court. The ultimate goal is to aid in finding safe, nurturing homes for all of these children. More than 300 children will be served under this funding. **Funding is provided through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Justice Assistance Grant funds administered by the State of Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.**

continued on page 7



SUMMIT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

...building stronger families for a better community

continued from page 6

The Family Resource Center, \$400,000: Intensive case management is delivered to at-risk youth and their families who are involved in domestic violence disputes, are pregnant or parenting teens, are teens at risk of dropping out of school or are returning from long-term stays in DYS, detention or other placement. The FRC is also a resource for other court-involved youth and the community as a whole. It serves as a central point of referral for all services available throughout Summit County for youth and their families. More than 500 families were served in 2009. **Funding is provided by Federal TANF/PRC funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.**

The Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Program, \$348,961.00: Intensive probation and case management services, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and/or cognitive behavioral therapy is delivered to youth who are at the greatest risk of commitment to Department of Youth Service institutions. Approximately 30 youth per year will be served per year. **Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.**

Disproportionate Minority Contact Diversion Program, \$103,232.00: Minority youth are diverted from official court involvement through completing appropriate tasks set forth by a program dedicated Intake Officer and program Hearing Officer and agreed to by the youth and parent/guardian in an effort to reduce disproportionate minority contact in Summit County and prevent further, official and more serious court involvement in the future. **Funding is provided by Federal Title II funds and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.**



SUMMIT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

...building stronger families for a better community

Detention Services

Bruce Alexander, Superintendant

The Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility consists of seven main housing units plus two annex units, making the total capacity for 100 juveniles.

The Detention Facility staff is responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for juveniles, staff and other persons, and assist with the security of the facility. Detention Officers are responsible for transporting juveniles to Court hearings, medical appointments, counseling appointments, diagnostic evaluations and other appointments deemed necessary by the Court.

Through a cooperative agreement and a collaborative effort with Akron Public Schools, all juveniles held in Detention attend school within the facility, and are taught by state certified teachers in math, science/health, language arts, history and reading. Judge Teodosio and Detention staff view education as a high priority and believe every juvenile held in the Detention facility should receive the best education possible. To aid in that goal, a new computer system, entitled PLATO, was installed to allow youth to work at their own pace and grade level. Now, juveniles can complete course work to receive credit and graduate from their school. Additional tutorial services are provided by Akron Public Schools through the Title I Program. Juveniles are encouraged to read daily as part of the 100 Book Challenge which is overseen by tutors. In addition, Detention staff provides daily structured programming in areas such as anger management, money management, completing job applications, character education, coping skills, decision-making and other areas. Physical recreation, non-denominational religious services and community-based agency programming are offered as well.

In 2009:

- **2,715** juveniles were brought to Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility. Whenever a juvenile is brought to Detention they go through the Intake process which consists of reviewing all paperwork and having the Detention Risk Assessment completed to determine whether the juvenile should be held or released.
 - **1,565** juveniles were held in the detention facility; 70% were males and 30% were females.
 - **1,150** juveniles were released through the admissions process. Of the 1150, 886 were released through the aforementioned admission process which consists of having the Detention Risk Assessment completed and the juvenile scoring below 23 points. 157 juveniles were Felony Released. Felony Releases occur when a juvenile is brought in on a lower level felony which does not involve the injury of a person and it is deemed that the juvenile is not a threat to his/her self or the community. These juveniles have a Court date scheduled within two days.
- 80** juveniles were released to the Department of Youth Services.
- The average daily population of the facility was 56.51.
 - The average bed days in Detention were 9.58 days (the average bed days represent the number of days a juvenile held in Detention spends in the facility from the time assigned to a unit until departure/release). There were 47 juveniles who had motions filed to have them bound over to the adult system. Of those 47, 16 youth had their case bound over on 19 cases. The youth who were bound over served a total of 1,637 days in detention for an average of 102.4 bed days per juvenile. That resulted in an increase of 26.2 more bed days than during 2008. The Detention Facility continues to use the Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment device which provides information to allow staff make better decisions as to which juveniles should be to be held in Detention and which can be released.

Clerk's Office

Cathy Richardson Thomas, Chief Deputy Clerk

The Clerk's Office is responsible for processing and maintaining all documents filed with the Court. The Clerk's Office is also responsible for collecting filing fees and all fines and costs that are assessed in delinquency, traffic, unruly and adult cases.

In 2009, **9,037** new cases were filed by the Clerk's Office. The breakdown by type is as follows:

- Delinquency: **4,181**
- Unruly: **650**
- Traffic: **2,317**
- Adult: **618**
- Dependent/Neglected/Abused/Custody/Visitation: **1,271***

In 2009, the Clerk's office collected a total of **\$362,674.90**. Of this amount, **\$16,537.00** was received for the payment of fines and costs in delinquency, unruly or adult cases; **\$106,031.87** was collected for traffic fines and costs, Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund and Indigent Defense Support Fund; **\$23,205.72** was collected for restitution; **\$201,766.05** was collected for computer and legal research, special fees, public defenders, reparations rotary fund, county and clerk fees, indigent application fees, bond, credit card fees, sundries, attorney fee reimbursement and legal news; **\$12,535.00** was collected for Alcohol Cessation Training (Project ACT), a Prohibition Diversion program and for the Staying Accident Free Through Education (SAFTE) Program, a driver intervention program.

*Numbers also include new permanent custody cases

The Women's Board

The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court continues to be a vital source of assistance to the Court, its staff and the youth in Detention. The mission of the Women's Board to promote educational options and incentive programs for the youth in Detention while providing much-needed volunteer services to Court staff. The members also conduct various fundraising events with the proceeds used, among other things, to fund staff training.

In the past year, the Women's Board again logged over 4,000 at the Court and one of its members, Ruth Dodridge, was named the Court Volunteer of the Year for 2009.

Intake Department

Lynda Mullins, Supervisor

The Intake Department is often the first and sometimes the only contact that alleged delinquent and unruly juveniles and their families have with the Court. Court Intake Officers explain the Court process to the families, gather background information and make appropriate recommendations for disposition to the judicial hearing officer.

In 2009, the department received **5,428 referrals** that included **7,651 counts**. This included **3,298 youth** referred to court dockets. The breakdown of the charges consisted of **1,019 felonies**, **5,416 misdemeanors**, and **1,216 status offenses**.

The Intake Department has seen several changes during 2009. A decision was made to discontinue the Prohibitions diversion program in favor of expanding referrals to the Victim Impact Panel (VIP). VIP can be used as a dispositional option for any offense at the Court while still allowing for it to be used as a diversion program on very minor offenses at the discretion of the hearing officer. Using VIP for diversion of cases fits the Court's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) initiative allowing all youth a chance at a diversion program. This year also saw the development of the grant funded intake diversion program, also related to the DMC initiative. The program is used primarily for domestic violence and other family related issues. Youth charged with domestic violence may be referred to Greenleaf or the Family Resource Center to complete a counseling program. Upon successful completion they will return to Court to have their charges dismissed with prejudice, therefore allowing their record to be sealed. Youth are also presented with a certificate as a reminder of their accomplishment.

Intake staff was trained to use the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) this year. This tool is another means for Court Intake Officers to gather and review information in order to make well-informed recommendations for disposition. This system was developed by the University of Cincinnati through a grant awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Detention Prevention in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The domains that are screened are diversion, detention, disposition, residential and re-entry.

This department has begun to meet monthly with the Information Technology department and has made some significant progress with new forms and applications. This collaboration has been most beneficial and will continue in the future with a goal to reduce unnecessary paperwork that is now generated but could be recorded electronically.

Traditional Probation Department

Curtis Howard, Chief Probation Officer

The Probation Department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of **1,034 cases in 2009**, which included **552 new assignments** and **482 cases** that were carried over from 2008. These totals include Traditional and Intensive probation cases. The monthly average for new assignments was approximately 46 cases per month. The number of cases served 1,034, is less than the previous year of 1,257. In 2009, youth were maintained under court supervision for longer terms and engaged in community services.

Probation cases are assigned based on geographic districts, allowing Probation Officers to establish and maintain rapport with clients, families, schools and agencies within a district. The average caseload for Probation Officers in 2009 was approximately 33 cases for each Probation Officer. The Probation staff consists of 12 Probation Officers, 2 Probation Community Workers, 3 Case Managers, a Probation Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant, and the Chief Probation Officer.

In 2009, the Probation Department **assisted 145 victims** to recover nearly **\$50,000 in restitution** that was paid directly to victims. Probationers also **worked 5,500 hours in Community Service**.

Of the 73 youth who committed or revoked to the Ohio Department of Youth Services in 2009, 17 were committed from the Probation Department, which is approximately 23% of the commitments and revocations. In 2009, 16 juveniles were bound over to the General Division of the Common Pleas Court to be tried as adults. Of those 16 bindover cases, only one was on probation at the time they were bound over to the adult system. Five hundred forty one (541) cases were successfully terminated from probation supervision in 2009, which included 259 males and 282 females.

This year the Probation Department and the community benefitted from two new grants that provided new, evidence based programs that were implemented. The Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Grant supported two new programs that provide intensive in-home therapy. The Targeted Reclaim Grant supported additional services such as The "Thinking For a Change" group and specific training for staff.

Summit County Juvenile Court and the Probation Department continue to maintain working relationships with community agencies and committees. These efforts seek to enhance the development and security of the Summit County Community, while holding juvenile offenders accountable for their actions. The community agencies, services and court programs have provided opportunities for our youth to engage in educational, substance abuse treatment and mental health services.

Sex Offender Management Unit

Terry Walton, Felony Disposition Supervisor

The Sex Offender Management Unit is comprised of three full time probation officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor. This specialized probation unit supervises an average of 80 youth a month, who have been charged with or adjudicated for a sexually aggressive offense as described in the Ohio Revised Code. In 2009, 81 incidents were referred to this department, reflecting an increase of 24 incidents over 2008. The average term of probation for a sexual offender is 18 to 20 months.

Unique to this unit, probation officers supervise their clients from intake through termination of probation including any placements that may occur. Client contact is made at home, school, office, placement facilities and/or in treatment sessions. Acting as co-facilitators, the probation officers collaborate with Child Guidance and Family Solutions in providing three counseling groups a week at the Juvenile Court, including a group for developmentally delayed offenders. A very important part of treatment is making amends to victims, their families, and communities. Youth donate one dollar at each treatment session, to be given to a non-profit community agency. Last year the Animal Protective League, Habitat for Humanity, Children's Hospital, Victim Assistance, Battered Women's Shelter and Hope Group all benefited from our youth's donations.

In addition, other private providers facilitate sexual offender treatment, and provide group, individual and/or family counseling to help eliminate sexually aggressive behaviors.

In 2009, the Sex Offender Management Unit, in conjunction with our team from Child Guidance and Family Solutions continued to modify our treatment format to incorporate the newest trends in community management of sexually aggressive youth. Additional focus was placed on proper social interactions.

The Sex Offender Management Unit remains informed about court decisions that impact the process of classification/registration of juvenile sex offenders. Changes have been made and information has been shared in keeping Summit County in compliance with the requirements of Senate Bill 10 which went into effect on January 1, 2008. Senate Bill 10, also known as The Adam Walsh Act, provides for the registration and classification of adult and juvenile sex offenders into a three tier system based solely on the level of offense. Juvenile offenders 14 years and older may be ordered to register from once a year for ten years up to every 90 days for life.

In 2009, this unit provided presentations to local agencies explaining how to successfully supervise juvenile sex offenders in the community, made presentations to several Jr. & Sr. High School classes on "Sexting", (using of cell phones and computers to share nude photos), and participate in the Child and Family Awareness Month by presenting at the Close-Up Conference.

This unit's probation officers also sit on several important committees within the county as well as the state. They are members of the Ohio Supreme Court Roundtable and the Supreme Court's committee on developing standards for the supervision and certification of treatment providers. These committees provide the probation officers with an opportunity to keep informed of new strategies in managing sex offenders successfully in the community.

The Crossroads Program

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Supervisor

The Crossroads Program is an intensive probation program that serves the community in the capacity of a combined drug court and mental health court. Statistics show that eight out of ten youth experiencing a substance abuse problem are also diagnosed with co-occurring mental health illness. Crossroads provides intensive probation supervision combined with specialized case management to youth who have such disorders.

Summit County has established itself as a national model for specialty courts. Specialty courts are those that combine the concepts of integrating treatment services with intensive criminal justice supervision and oversight. In 2003, when Judge Teodosio took the Juvenile Court bench, she redesigned the existing drug court into a co-occurring docket, one of the very first such specialty courts in the nation. An intensive probation officer works with the youth and the family to develop individual goals that need to be met by the youth in order for them to advance through the phases. Once all goals have been met and the phases have been completed, the youth's delinquency charges that brought them into the program are dismissed and expunged.

Crossroads is comprised of a presiding Magistrate; a Juvenile Division prosecutor, a Court contracted Attorney/GAL to represent the youth's best interest, a part time clerk/bailiff, a part time community worker, four intensive probation officers, and a department supervisor. All Crossroads staff receives extensive training in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Crossroads uses rewards as incentives to positively reinforce desired behaviors. Of further importance is Crossroads ability, due to weekly review hearings, to implement immediate consequences as is necessary when working with adolescents who engage in delinquent thinking errors. Review Hearings are held after traditional Court hours to accommodate the families' work schedules. Initially, the youth report for reviews on a weekly basis. As they work their way through the phases, the intensity diminishes as their progress advances.

Collaboration with community treatment providers, both from substance abuse and mental health disciplines, is the foundation of Crossroads' efforts. Court staff meets bi-weekly with providers to conduct case plan reviews and ensure effective services are tightly wrapped around the youth and family.

Due to the diversionary element of Crossroads, youth who are adjudicated of violent crimes, with the exception of domestic violence, are not eligible to participate. Crossroads further disqualifies youth who are adjudicated of a sex offense or an offense of drug trafficking.

In calendar year 2009, Crossroads **admitted 36 new families**. Also during the year, there were **31 youth** released from supervision. As of December 31, 49 families were participating in the program. Fiscal year 2009 statistics reported a 67% success rate for Crossroads families. Particularly noteworthy in 2009 was the addition of a youth Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA) meeting for the community. DRA is a 12 step support meeting specifically designed for co-occurring individuals. Youth meet weekly at the Juvenile Court with the guidance of community adult volunteers. This meeting is the only such meeting of its type for youth in the nation.

March 2009 marked the beginning of the pilot phase of the Summit County Juvenile Court Developmental Disability initiative, New Paths. New Paths is a dedicated probation intervention being offered by the Court to families in the juvenile justice system who have children with special needs. New Paths is intended to be a holistic, case management driven approach to assisting the family in maneuvering through the Court system while ensuring the needs of all involved parties are met.

continued on page 14

Latest research suggests that 1 out of every 8 children born are affected by some sort of developmental delay or deficit. Consistency is an essential component to serving special needs youth. New Paths provides the family with a specially trained Court worker who will assist them through the juvenile justice system from the beginning of their involvement all the way through to the close of their case. Having a single Court staff person functioning in multiple capacities promotes this consistency and continuity of care. This single provider approach further optimizes the likelihood of engagement of the youth in the court proceedings, and provides the opportunity for optimal outcomes.

Families referred to New Paths are those who have been determined to be in need of additional assistance.

Once a youth has been identified as having a special need, a Court worker is assigned who begins by working in the capacity of an intake officer. This Officer will work with the family through the adjudication process. If a youth is adjudicated of the charges brought against him/her, the court worker will assume the role of the Probation Officer. In the event the charges are dismissed or disposed of prior to adjudication due to competency, the Court worker serves as Case Manager. The primary role of the worker then becomes assisting the family in ensuring supports are in place to provide continued optimum care for the youth in the community.

Youth with a diagnosis of a Pervasive Development Disorder such as autism or Asperghers Syndrome, a traumatic brain injury or some other developmental impairment are likely to be identified by the Court for this specialized service.

Psychology Services

Dr. Thomas Webb, Staff Psychologist

Psychology services provide crisis support for detained youth as well as forensic evaluations for the Court. For the former, the Court Psychologist is involved with mental health emergencies as they arise. Crisis-oriented counseling is provided as well as consultative support for detention officers and nursing staff.

For court proceedings, the court psychologist is responsible for forensic evaluations where psychiatric and/or psycho-educational issues are in question. The most weighty of these relates to Amenability Hearings involving transfer of jurisdiction to the adult system. To aid decisions regarding whether a youth should be transferred to the adult system or remain under juvenile jurisdiction, **20 Amenability reports were submitted** to Judge Teodosio, the Prosecutor's Office and defense attorneys in 2009. More often psychological assessments were performed to target motivational dynamics of youth coming before the Court. In 2009, there were **227 youth evaluated** to identify mental health issues, family stressors and early neuro-developmental factors potentially contributing to their aberrant behavior. Reports so compiled were distributed to legal staff principally involved with the youth's case. In some instances, these clinical assessments served as the basis for qualifying youth for special programs or dockets such as "Crossroads" (a court docket for youthful offenders with severe psychiatric and substance dependency disorders) and "New Paths" (docket for youth with special neuro-developmental disabilities).

The Psychology section has offered training and support to organizations in the community. This year was the third during which the Court Psychologist provided forensic training to the Child Psychiatry Fellowship from Children's Hospital. Both formal didactic training and personalized supervision was provided. It has also played a supportive role in helping design innovative diagnostic and treatment services that benefit juvenile offender populations. Collaborating with the University of Akron and Child Guidance & Family Solutions, strides have been made in developing more effective interventions, especially for those youth having significant co-occurring disorders or developmental anomalies. Supportive consultation has also been provided to other community entities responsible for children's welfare.

Family Resource Center

Lisa Karas, Program Coordinator

Now in its fourth year, the Family Resource Center (FRC) operates under the philosophy that short-term assistance will lessen recidivism and assist families in being self-sufficient. The FRC continues to serve youth and families in addressing challenging issues such as: teen parenting, truancy, community re-entry and domestic violence. The FRC, made possible by Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funding through the State of Ohio and County of Summit Departments of Job and Family Services, built on its collaborative community relationships to serve nearly 500 youth and families in the Summit County area in 2009.

Using a case management platform, the FRC Youth and Family Specialists partner with our clients to assess their needs, refer them to the community service providers, problem solve, and provide monitoring, and support along with an array of special in-house programming offered here at the court and in the community which includes:

The **Teen Parent Education and Support Program**, which aims to work with pregnant and parenting teens to acquire the information and skills necessary to be effective parents, to continue their education and to encourage self-sufficiency. The FRC engages clients in individual case management and referrals to area agencies to address their specific needs. It is supported by an 8-week evidence-based **Teen Parent Education** class, developed by the FRC and community partner, Family Ties of Child Guidance and Family Solutions. In 2009, 40 teens were enrolled in the parenting program.

The **School-to-Work Program** assists in preparing youth in "Jumping Over Barriers to Success (JOBS)" by encouraging school attendance and preparation for work. Each youth who completes the program receives one-on-one job readiness assessment and counseling. In 2009, 97 youth were enrolled in the program and received some level of employability skill training. 35 youth enrolled obtained employment and 32 were enrolled in Summer Work Experience. The FRC works closely with the Tri County Jobs for Ohio Graduates Next Step initiative at the Summit County Job Center to meet School-to-Work Program goals.

Thanks to a generous grant obtained by the Women's Board from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation and equipment donated by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, the FRC is able to offer the **Education Enrichment Program** that includes a Computer Lab and web-based learning tools for youth and families to explore career software, and develop an array of self-improvement and coping skills that will serve them well now and in the future. Several youth have successfully participated in the Education Enrichment Program in the 2009 year. We look to expand the program further in 2010, in order to reach a larger number of youth who are in need of educational support.

The **Community Re-Entry** case manager provides individual case management to address the specific concerns of youth returning from the Department of Youth Services or residential care. In 2009, 28 youth were involved with the FRC case manager. The FRC works closely with DYS to maximize positive outcomes for youth through educational monitoring, referrals to community support agencies, help with job readiness/placement and family supports.

To address issues of domestic violence with youth, **Choices for Change**, was piloted during 2008, and continued through 2009. The program consists of youth and family case management, and 8 weekly group sessions with youth. Targeted to first-time offenders, the course work and discussions revolve around identifying responsibilities and options to violence. In 2009, 27 youth participated in this program.

The collaborations with our community partners, allows the FRC to maximize our collective resources. Through a partnership with Catholic Social Services and Greenleaf Family Center, the FRC hosts "**Such is Life**," an 8-week life skill building program. In 2009, 43 youth aged 16-18 were enrolled in the program.

Citizen's Review Board

Magistrate Rita M. Rochford, Director

The Citizen's Review Board (CRB) consists of community volunteers who determine whether the best interests of the children in Dependency, Neglect and Abuse cases are being met. The Board consists of representatives with social work, criminal justice, education and/or medical backgrounds or other significant community involvement. The CRB consists of four separate boards, each of which meet twice a month to review the status of children in the permanent custody of Summit County Children Services. The CRB ensures that the needs of the children are being met and that Summit County Children Services is using reasonable efforts to facilitate the child's permanency plan, which is typically adoption.

CRB members review each case at least once every six months and more frequently, if necessary. The Board, in concert with the Magistrate, has the authority to issue orders during the review hearings, to maintain the child's welfare or permanency plan.

The Citizen's Review Board operates pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and is supervised by a Magistrate/Director under the direct authority of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

In 2009 there were 284 children on the Citizen Review Board's caseload with approximately 305* review hearings on its docket.

*sibling groups are heard during the same hearing for Court efficiency.

CASA/GAL Department

Beth Cardina, Program Coordinator

The mission of the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program is to recruit, train and support volunteers who speak up for abused, neglected and dependent children in Court. As a party in the proceedings, it is the role of the CASA/GAL child advocate to provide investigation, assessment, recommendations, monitoring and advocacy in order to assist the Court in making decisions in the best interest of children.

The program is funded by the Summit County Juvenile Court and with grants from the **Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Victims of Crime Act, the State Victims Assistance Act**, local foundations, businesses, organizations and the CASA Board of Trustees, a 501(c)3 organization which exists to promote the program and to support volunteers in partnership with the Court.

The CASA/GAL Department consists of **fifteen** staff members. During 2009, the staff and **over 200** volunteer child advocates provided a voice for **1,259** dependent, abused or neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of the program's active volunteers and the number of children it serves ranks as the highest of any CASA/GAL program in the State of Ohio and the fourth largest in the nation.

Additionally, with the support from **community grants** and the **Women's Board**, the CASA/GAL's Toy Shop and the Court's Toy Project coordinated their efforts into one event, providing holiday gifts to over **225** children in care.

Diversion Unit

Phil Lucco, Program Director

The Diversion Unit's primary function is to communicate with all law enforcement departments in Summit County and to assist them with their needs and those of the children involved in the juvenile justice system. The Intake Department forwards police reports for children who may be eligible for diversion services to the Diversion Unit. In turn, the Diversion Unit forwards the name to the appropriate police department for a determination as to whether the child meets its criteria for services. Participation in diversion services allows a lower-level offender to receive services in their community and avoid the Court process and an official juvenile record. **In 2009, 1,196 cases went through the Police Departments Diversion Units. Also, 339 cases were sent to diversion by the court.**

The Child Responsibility Project is part of the Diversion Unit. It is the Child Responsibility Project's function to locate job sites where youth will work in order to pay restitution to the victim of their offense. The money that the youth earns is provided through the RECLAIM Ohio grant and is paid directly to the victim by the Court. The juvenile is credited an hourly wage as dictated by state law. The victim then receives the wages up to \$600. It is also the responsibility of this unit to compute the hours and track them. **In 2009, there were 187 juveniles who took part in the Child Responsibility Project, completing 7,706 hours worked and earning \$50,086.30 which was paid to victims of crime. The juvenile earned funds to compensate their victims at a rate of \$6.50 an hour.**

Community service hours ordered by the Court are also monitored by the Diversion Unit. The unit works closely with the Intake and Probation Departments to assure that youth are meeting the requirements of their community service sanction. **In 2009, 1,382 juveniles were ordered to complete community service. The completed community service hours in 2009 were 22,759.**

In 2003, the Court initiated its Special Projects program. This program allows a juvenile to earn credit for eight hours of ordered community service by earning \$40.00 which, depending on the time of year, will be used to purchase toys, food or school supplies. These items are donated to the needy in Summit County. It is the responsibility of the Diversion Unit to track the paperwork for the projects, take custody of the items and assure the delivery of the items to those in need. **In 2009, 72 juveniles participated in one of the three projects throughout the year. 21 juveniles participated in the Food Project, 14 juveniles participated in the School Project, and 37 juveniles participated in the Toy Project.**

The Court deeply appreciates the cooperation and the invaluable services provided by the Diversion Units of the community's Police Departments and the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

Teen Court

The Summit County Teen Court is a diversionary program designed to provide the community's youth exposure to the juvenile justice system. Teen volunteers hear actual cases in Juvenile Court and they actually participate in the proceedings.

The Court makes referrals to Teen Court on cases involving first-time offenders who have admitted to committing a low-level misdemeanor offense. The youth and his or her parents or guardians must agree to have the case referred to Teen Court for a dispositional hearing literally before a jury of their peers. High school students from across Summit County received training on Court procedure and how to apply the principles of restorative justice to their dispositions.

With the help of volunteers from actual trial attorneys and assistant prosecutors, teens take on the roles of defense attorney and prosecutor and argue their cases to a jury consisting of teen volunteers. Once testimony has been delivered the jurors begin their deliberations and return with a disposition. Should the youth abide by the conditions of their disposition to the satisfaction of the Court, the charge against them will be dismissed.

In 2009, **56** active volunteers from **15** high schools participated in **21** Teen Court hearings. There were **24** volunteers who received training at two training sessions conducted in 2009.

Mediation Program

Dependency, abuse and neglect cases are lengthy, sometimes lasting two years. In order to address that issue, the Court developed and implemented its successful Mediation Program in early 2006. The Mediation Program is designed to expedite the process to bring the parties together to reach a quicker resolution of their cases.

In 2009, a total of **166 cases** were submitted to the mediation process. Of those cases, **106** were successfully resolved, **40** were unresolved and there were **20** instances in which a required third party failed to appear and/or the mediation was cancelled. The mediation program currently involves **10 trained attorney mediators**.

Women's Board's Ruth Dodridge Named Volunteer of the Year

On February 15th, the Juvenile Court recognized many of the individuals who give of their time and talent throughout the year. Volunteers from the Citizens Review Board, Teen Court, True North Ministries and the Women's Board were thanked for their assistance to Court staff and their work with youth in Detention.

For the fourth year, the Court also selected one person as its Volunteer of the Year Award. The honoree for 2009 was Ruth Dodridge of the Women's Board. Ms. Dodridge has been a member of the Women's Board since 1976. She remains one of its most active members, volunteering in a variety of capacities.



Ruth Dodridge (r) with Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio after winning the Court's 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Most recently, she has concentrated her efforts on assisting with Traffic Court. Clerk's Office staff members marvel at her energy and her expertise and they know that when Ms. Dodridge is there, things will run smoothly.

Ms. Dodridge joins Nancy Patton, Linda Sinar and Carol Kohar as winners of the award.

2009 Accomplishments Under the Leadership of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

Developmental Disabilities Docket: 2009 marked the beginning of the pilot phase of the Summit County Juvenile Court Developmental Disability initiative, New Paths, a dedicated docket intervention offered by the Court to families in the juvenile justice system who have children with special needs. New Paths is intended to assist the family in maneuvering through the Court system while ensuring the needs of all involved parties are met. New Paths provides the family with a specially trained Court worker who will assist them through the juvenile justice system from the beginning of their involvement through to the close of their case.

Fiscal Responsibility: With the economic downturn affecting so many segments of the public and private sectors, the Court was able to maintain its level of services and programming. Through attrition, seeking alternative funding sources and utilizing fiscal restraint, the Court was able to forgo employee furloughs and staff layoffs.

High School Advisory Board: Through a county-wide application process involving every high school, 13 students were selected to serve on this Board. The students met quarterly and were introduced to topics germane to their experiences in their school and in their social sphere. Their input was sought on how to better address these topics in the Court and in their community.

Mental Health Responder Program: Through this diversion program, the Court created a partnership with three local school districts to identify mental health issues in middle school students who are chronic truants. The program trained over 50 teachers and administrators in these districts to detect symptoms of mental health and erratic attendance patterns and it offers assessment, intervention and possibly treatment. It allows the student to be served without contact with the juvenile justice system.

Saturday Series: A free monthly presentation aimed at social service and health care professionals as well as families, the Saturday Series offered speakers presenting on topics ranging from addictions to youth suicide.

"Takin' It to the Streets" Honored: The United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recognized the Court's diversion program, Takin' It to the Streets, as one of the two best of its kind in the nation. The program was cited for its contributions to addressing disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. The Court created a Disproportionate Minority Contact Planning Committee to study this trend and subsequently developed a roster of subjects where community leaders would engage the public in meaningful dialogue at meetings at specifically selected venues. The topics were "You and the Law," "Your Court, Your Community," "Hip Hop and the Media," "The System," "A Focus on Parents" and "Truancy and Youth."

Targeted RECLAIM/Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice: These initiatives offer special programming for the highest at-risk offenders on probation. These programs have a common goal to introduce youth and their families to evidence-based therapy models to make them more productive citizens and decrease further contact with the juvenile justice system. During Judge Teodosio's tenure, she has made it a priority to create and maintain a full continuum of services designed to address the needs of the youngest to the oldest and the least serious to the most serious offenders.

The Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court*

**Robert Aaron
Bruce Alexander
Akaree Anderson
Cheryl Anderson
Mary Elizabeth Anderson
Chariti Armstead
Rebecca Armstrong
Lori Augustus**

**Tammy Barnes
Tavia Baxter
Holly Batey
Terry Bendo
Linda Bennett
Kathy Bertsch
Bob Bickett
Emmanuel Blackmon
Patty Blasio
Jennifer Bond
Jon Booher
Stephanie Borak
Anita Boyer
Lucretia Brenner
Kimberly Brooks
Christine Brown
Sandra Brown
Bryan Bryce
Mary Burney
Alex Byard**

Lorrie Campbell
Beth Cardina
Tom Cerne
Brad Christman
Roslyn Clark
Vonda Coffman
Sonya Cole
Delmar Coleman
Renee Conlon
Amanda Covert
Bob Cox
Kurt Cox
Mindy Cox
Laconia Crandall

Bill Davis
Sarah DeLeo
Jennifer Dinkins
Lisa DiSabato-Moore

Lisa Eagle
Tim Edgar
Debra Ellis
Cheryl Evans

Ruby Fair
Chanin Faith
Chris Falconer
Lori Favalon
Chris Fergus
Tremain Fields
Kevin Floyd

Brian Fogle
Darin Ford
Tom Freeman
Julianne Fuller
Alan Futo

Tom Gaffney
Susan Gatts
Hadley George
Ursula Gould
Davine Green
Norma Green
Keith Griggs
Andrew Gucciardo
Don Guthrie

**Karen Haddad
Glorena Harvath
Jody Hathaway
Lisa Hawes
Tom Henretta
Katie Herman
Jessica Heropulos
Erica Herrin
LaTonya Hill
Kandy Hixson
David Holmgren
Erin Hookey
David Horner
Curtis Howard**

Andre Jackson
Perry James
Genesis Jeffries
Brandy Johnson
Nate Johnson
Tammy Johnson
Brandon Jones
Kenneth Jones
Lavel Jones

Kristen Kaludy
Lisa Karas
Sabrina Kearns
Allen Kelly
Joe Kernan
Judi Keyes
Maria Kostoff
Michelle Kreidler
Irene Kuckovic

Shawn Lazarus
Richard Lilly
Barbara List
Donald Lomax
Leslie Lorenz
Phil Lucco
Keith Luhring
Laura Lynd-Robinson

Melissa Madden
Joshua Maqyarics

Lavar Martin
Stacey Mathieu
Kristin Maxwell
Tracy Mays
Rob McCarty
Olivia McClellan
Nick McCoy
Robert McFarren
Denise McGuckin
Shawn McNulty
Mary Ann Mendlik
David Molis
Kandy Monroe
Robert Moore
Leslie Morris
Andrea Morton
Lynda Mullins
Patrick Munford
Lora Mycoskie
Keysha Myers

Shanda Nagle
Michelle Neely
Steven Nettle
Mary Nicholis

Jimmy Oliver
Juwana Owens

Juston Palmer
Laure Palmeri
Linda Palmeri
Jeanne Papoi
Karen Parnell
Joe Petrucelli
Jonathan Pooler
Jeff Pope
Kevin Prevo

Hema Ramachandran
Christine Rees
Tammy Richardson
Trumaine Riley
Angela Robinson
Rita Rochford
Ralph Roebuck
Susan Rollings
Sally Roupe
Amy Russell

Jeri Sampson
Rebecca Scalise
Todd Schauffler
Cory Schweigert
Reginald Scott
Kathryn Sellers
Cynthia Shama
Lola Simmons
Cheryl Simpson
Robert Singletary
Annie Skapin
Latana Slayton

Eric Small
Raylene Smead
Carie Smith
Christopher Smith
Kathy Smith
Thomas Smith
Kristen Soltis
Mike Soyars
Nick Stahl
Steve Stahl
Tammy Stiles
Maureen Sullivan

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Adam Testa
Cathy Richardson Thomas
Esther Thomas
Jody Tolley
Michael Tramonte
Mary Beth Tschantz
Tazmin Turpin
Triston Tyrrell
Woody Tyrrell

Don Ursetti

Ed VandenBulke
Katy Van Horn
Joanne Vetter
John Vuillemin

Rashara Walker
Terry Walton
Michael Ward
Dr. Thomas Webb
December West
James Whited
Tim Wilkes
Kevin Williams
Jane Wilson
Eddie Winstead
Tiffany Worthey
Quin Wychanko

Joan Zito

* list includes part-time employees, employees who worked a portion of 2009 and interns.



Copies printed 210
Cost per copy: \$3.4140 each