
THE 2004 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION
LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO, JUDGE



2004 Annual Report of the Summit County Juvenile Court

William P. Kannel Juvenile Court Center
650 Dan Street
Akron OH 44310

Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge



Robert Bickett , Court Administrator
David Horner, Assistant Court Administrator

Magistrates

Tavia Baxter	Christine Rees
Katherine Bertsch	Tammy Richardson
Bradford Christman	Rita Rochford
Maria Kostoff	Edward Smolk
Kristin Maxwell	John Vuillemin
Denise McGuckin	James Whited

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



Thank you for taking the time to review the Summit County Juvenile Court's 2004 Annual Report.

In these pages you will be able to see the programming and projects we have introduced to this Court. We are always seeking newer, better ways to serve the people who come before this Court. It truly is a work in progress...with the emphasis on "progress."

The Court made strides in the several areas in the past year. There is no doubt that the highlight of 2004 was the opening of the new expansion. The 51,000 square feet of additional space has allowed the Court to enhance the manner it operates on a daily basis.

Our Crossroads Program has received national recognition for its approach to aiding youth with co-occurring disorders. Our Truancy Task Force's collaboration with the school districts was viewed as a model for such groups at a conference in Washington, D.C.

The Court has realized a significant upgrade in our information technology. The marked improvement in that vital area has most definitely added to the efficiency of the Court staff and the people and professionals who work with the Court.

It has been a goal since Day One of my administration of this Court to improve the educational options of our youth in detention and on probation. In 2004, the Court's library has grown four times its size in both space and the amount of books that are available. It has allowed the Court to implement tutoring programs, not only for the youth in detention, but also for probationers who have been identified as needing help, particularly with reading.

We engaged the youth in our community and sought their input through our Student Board; high school students who were appointed to be a conduit between their schools, their communities and this Court.

These are just some of the programs at the Court. Others are noted in this annual report. Our task is to now seek to improve on them all, and from them, look for new and better ways to make the Court a leader in the juvenile justice system.

Linda Tucci Teodosio

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert Bickett, Court Administrator

The 2004 Summit County Juvenile Court Budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled \$12,149,741.

County Funding

Total: 9,190,810

Detention Center: 29%
General Office/Judicial: 33%
Probation/Administration: 38%

State/Federal Funding

FY2004: 7/1/03 – 6/30/04: 2,958,931

Reclaim Ohio Grant: 94%
Juvenile Accountability: 6%

Service Provider Contracts to the Court

Service/Provider

Contract Amount

Day Treatment

Akron YMCA Phoenix Day Suspension 105,250.00
East Akron Community House 250,000.00

Electronic Monitoring

Secured Monitoring 15,000.00

Educational Services

Akron YMCA Phoenix School 100,000.00

Out of Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment 137,750.00

Juvenile Court share/Summit County 100,000.00

Family & Children First/Cluster for
Youth Funding Agreement

Short Term Out of Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment 98,550.00
Oriana House Juvenile Halfway House 952,200.00

Crossroads Program

Summit County Sheriffs Office 20,000.00
Summit County Legal Defenders 17,000.00
Family Services 40,844.00

Drug/Alcohol Assessment Services

Community Health Center 27,900.00
Akron Health Department 30,000.00

Mental Health Counseling

Akron Child Guidance 25,000.00

Competency Evaluations

Blick Clinic 15,000.00
Youth Risk and Needs Assessment 45,636.00
The Ohio State University

Community Service/Restitution Program

Funds to Victims 55,000.00

Citizen's Review Board Coordinator

48,565.95

Long Term Out-of-Home Placements

300,000.00

Diversions Program

Distributed in varying amounts to twelve
Police Departments and the Sheriff's Office 55,000.00

Clerk's Office

Mary Ann J. Mendlik, Chief Deputy Clerk

The Clerk's office receives and processes all documents that are filed with the Court including pleadings and motions filed by attorneys and individuals as well as all orders, decisions and judgment entries issued by the Judge and Magistrates. The Clerk's office is also responsible for collecting filing fees as well as all fines and costs that are assessed in delinquency, traffic, unruly and adult cases.

2004 has been a year of change and new beginnings for the Clerk's office. In March, the Clerk's office moved into its new space in the new Court facility where all deputy clerks and the file room are in the same office. In July, the Clerk's office implemented a procedure to handle the filing of the new Grandparent Power of Attorney and Grandparent Caretaker Authorization Affidavits authorized by House Bill 130. Throughout the year, the Clerk's office has also implemented various changes in an effort to continue to improve the efficiency of processing all filings and copy requests.

In 2004, a total of 11,095 cases were filed with the Juvenile Court. The breakdown by type is as follows:

	<u>Delinquency:</u>	<u>Traffic:</u>	<u>Unruly:</u>	<u>Adult:</u>	<u>Dependency, Neglect and Abuse (including custody and/or visitation):</u>
Cases filed:	4,755	3,535	593	816	1,396
Dispositions:	4,562	3,602	610	776	1,808

** Dispositions may reflect cases filed prior to 2004.

In 2004, the Clerk's office collected a total of \$465,541.86. Of this amount, \$31,679 was received for the payment of fines and costs in delinquency, unruly or adult cases; \$198,306 was collected for traffic fines and costs; \$17,554.65 was collected for restitution; \$3,818 was collected for probation supervision fees; \$214,184.21 was collected for computer and legal research, special fees, public defender, reparations rotary fund, county and clerk fees and sundries.

Information Technology

Todd Schauffler, Director

In 2004 there was a significant influx of technology into the daily operations at the Juvenile Court. An investment of \$800,000 allowed the Court to install the hardware necessary to significantly upgrade the Court's daily efficiency. Employees throughout the court now have access to computers, networked printers, email, and access to the Internet. These resources provide for improved communication, reduction in manual processes and access to information from external agencies. From the reception desk to the Judge's bench the Juvenile Court utilizes information systems to enhance its ability to serve the residents of Summit County.

Additional advancements were also seen in the courtrooms. In 2004 a four channel digital audio recording system was implemented in each of the magistrate hearing rooms and two main court rooms. This system allows jurists to control the recording of daily proceedings, make notations throughout the hearing, and later retrieve the audio for review. Centralized servers store the audio recordings and archive the oldest audio tracks to DVD media. Approximately six months of court proceedings are stored on these servers and can be searched or retrieved for playback from the jurist's bench or office.

The court also began work to replace its case management system. The new case management system will provide employees with easy access to information from all aspects of the court's business. The case management system will also provide much needed modules for the probation department and detention facility. Deployment of the new system is expected early 2005.

Detention Services

David C. Bailey, Director of Operations

The Juvenile Court Detention Facility has seven main housing units plus two annex units, with a capacity of 100 juveniles. In 2004, the Court utilized four housing units.

Detention staff members are responsible for the safety and security of the juveniles, staff and other persons as well as the facility. Staff is also responsible for the transportation of juveniles to their various appointments, which include court hearings, medical appointments, interviews, diagnostic evaluations, etc.

The Detention Facility also provide juveniles with medical services, educational needs, special tutoring, art instruction, physical recreation, non-denominational religious services and other types of awareness and community programs.

Detention Services Provided During 2004

- 2,936 juveniles were brought to the Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility in 2004.
 - 1,833 (62%) juveniles were held in Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility in 2004, 76% were males while 24% were females.
 - 1,103 (38%) juveniles were released through the Admissions process.
- The average daily population in Detention for 2004 was 51.6 juveniles.
- The average bed days in Detention for 2004 were 10.2 days*. Average bed days in 2003 were 12 days.
- The total bed days used in 2004 was 18,896.

* Average bed days reflect the amount of days a youth spends in the Detention Center from the moment of arrival to the moment of departure.

A risk assessment device was implemented at the Court in June 2004 to assist the Court in evaluating youth. The Global Risk Assessment Device (GRAD) is a web-based tool and provides the Court with an in-depth profile of the juveniles based on eleven risk domains. The results of the GRAD assessment assist youth-serving professionals in making recommendations and referrals based on reliable and valid information, and clearly addresses a variety of risks and protective factors impacting youth.

During the first six months of utilizing the GRAD (June through December), the Detention Facility:

- Registered 1041 individual juveniles providing the following information- Demographics, Transitional Risk Factors, Household and Family Data, Current Offenses, Prior Offenses, Mental Health Systems Involvement and Primary Caregiver Information.
- Administered 995 Public Safety Screens. The Public Safety Screen is unique for Summit County. It incorporated the prior Risk Assessment device and used it as a Hold/Release tool into the GRAD web-site. This assists the Court in determining which children can safely be released from detention to their families.
- Administered 408 GRAD assessments. This is an in-depth assessment, which is currently conducted for juveniles charged with felonies or domestic violence. Others may receive the assessment at the request or discretion of Court Staff.

¹Ohio State University developed the Global Risk Assessment Device (GRAD) to assist those serving youth in making recommendations and referrals based on valid and reliable information of 11 domains - Prior Offenses, Family/Parenting, Education/Vocation, Peers/Significant Relationships, Substance Abuse, Leisure, Personality/behavior, Sociability, Accountability, Trauma, Health Services. GRAD is a web-based tool.

Diversion Unit

Phil Lucco, Coordinator

The Diversion Unit's primary function is to communicate with all the police 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 of the Court. 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 2004, 344 juveniles were ordered into diversion by the Court, 196 males and 148 females.**

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 gets credit for \$5.15 an hour toward damages to the victim up to \$600. It is also the responsibility of this unit to compute the hours and track them. **In 2004, youths participating in the Child Responsibility Project completed 10,258 work hours and earned \$52,831.68 which was paid to victims of crime.**

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 2004, 986 youth were assigned to community service in 23 Summit County communities.**

In 2004, the Court also continued its Special Projects program, initiated in 2003. 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 then 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 2004, 54 Juveniles participated in the Food Project, 42 juveniles participated in the School Supply Project and 52 juveniles participated in the Toy Project.**

Construction Project

After nearly three years, the \$21 million construction project was completed and Court staff moved into the new administrative office and courtroom section in mid-March. In all, 51,000 square feet of additional space was created, the existing structure was renovated to provide additional offices and the detention center was expanded with three new halls.

On September 24, 2004, the William P. Kannel Juvenile Court Center was re-dedicated. The photographs on this page commemorate the events of that day.



Court employee Ruby Fair opened the ceremony with a stirring rendition of "God Bless America."



Judge Teodosio welcomed the guests to the dedication ceremony.



Councilman Tom Teodosio represented Summit County Council.



Former Judge and current Juvenile Court Magistrate John Vuillemin delivered a moving speech upon having one of two new detention halls named in his honor.



Over 400 people attended the Re-Dedication Ceremony in the Court's new conference room



Then 14 years old, Ethan Procter created the artwork that graced the invitation and ceremony program. Now 17, he is seen here with Executive James B. McCarthy, Judge Teodosio and his grandparents.



At Left: Members of Judge William P. Kannel's family join Judge Teodosio around the re-dedication plaque which now hangs in the lobby of the new expansion. The second new detention hall was also named in Judge Kannel's honor during the ceremony.

Intake Department

Joe Petrucelli, Supervisor

The Intake Department is usually the first, and often, the only contact that alleged delinquent and unruly juveniles and their families have with the Court. Staff members explain the legal process to the juvenile and family members, gather information about the juvenile's background and make appropriate recommendations to the court based upon the information gathered.

During the last year, the Intake Department continued to be involved in a pilot project with the Center for Restorative Justice. This is a mediation program involving the offender, legal guardian and the victim. The desired outcome of such mediation is for all parties to come to a mutual agreement beneficial to everyone involved. Last year, thirty cases were successfully handled in this manner.

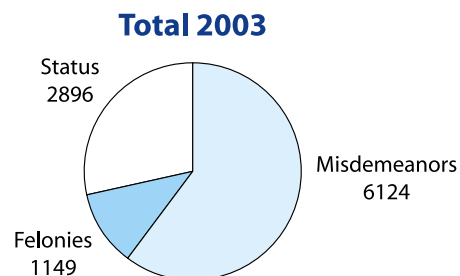
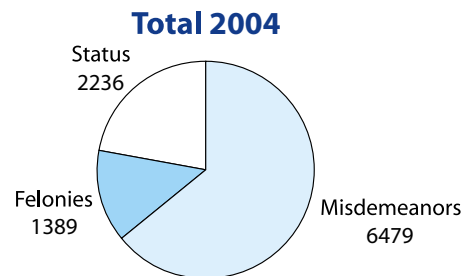
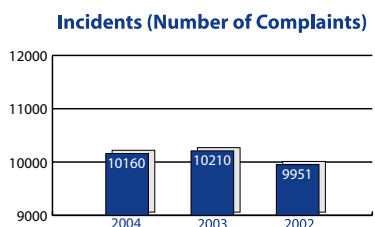
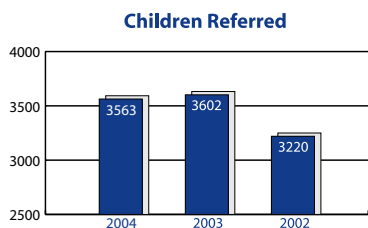
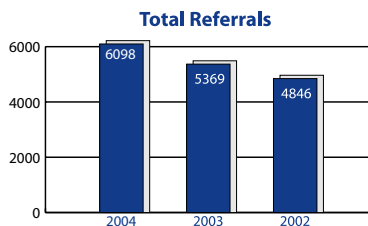
The Intake Department continued to run the **Victim Impact Panel**. In cooperation with the Catholic Commission, the program educated more than 175 juveniles and their parents/guardians about the negative effects of substance abuse. Police Officers, paramedics, representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving and parents who have lost their children because of a drunk driver were among the speakers who related their experiences. Also in cooperation with the Catholic Commission, the Court began a mentoring program for children needing a positive adult role model.

Project THRIVE once again worked with school districts throughout Summit County to attack the truancy problem within each district. The campaign utilized billboards, television spots, public service announcements in the print and electronic media and brochures to bolster its outreach activities.

Project Thrive worked closely with the **Truancy Task Force** to shape the message of the outreach campaign. The Task Force met throughout the year and provided valuable assistance to the Court as a conduit between the school districts, police departments, social service agencies and the Court. In December, three (3) members of the Task Force were invited to speak at the first national truancy conference in Washington, D.C. The Task Force is considered to be a model of community collaboration in dealing with the truancy problem.

The **Victim Services Office** was established in 2000 and serves as a valuable function for the Court by opening up the lines of communication between the Court and those victimized by crime. Victim Services notifies victims of Court hearings pertinent to the case involving the delinquent youth. The office also assists the victim in structuring Victim Impact Statements and gathering loss information for restitution purposes. The officer can also connect victims with community resources. Offering professional and emotional support for the victim during the Court process provides peace of mind and reassurance for people whose lives have been impacted by criminal behavior.

INTAKE NUMBERS



Probation Department

Curtis Howard, Supervisor

The Probation Department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of an average of 63 new cases per month in 2004. **The department provided services for 1,224 cases in 2004**, which included 757 new assignments and 467 cases that were carried over from the previous year. That is approximately 15 fewer cases, handled in 2003.

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 2004 was approximately 30 cases. The probation staff consists of 13 Probation Officers, 2 Intensive Probation Supervision Officers, a Senior Probation Officer, a Probation Supervisor and the Chief Probation Officer.

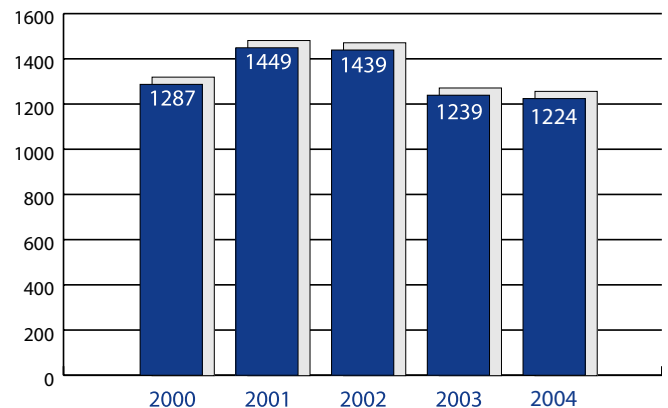
The Probation Department strives to meet the objectives of holding offenders accountable, maintaining safety and security of the community and providing a means to attain practicable rehabilitation. This is most successful by using the vast dispositional options on a continuum of the least restrictive to the most restrictive options.

In 2004 the Probation Department assisted in the recovery of nearly \$50,000 in restitution that was paid directly to victims. Probationers also worked over 800 hours of valuable community service.

Of the 213 youths that were committed to the Department of Youth Services, 74 were committed from the Probation Department, which is approximately 35% of those committed. In 2004, 18 juveniles were bound over to the Grand Jury to be tried as adults. Of the 18, five were on probation at time of the incident. Four hundred fifty-five (455) cases were terminated from probation supervision in 2004.

Summit County Juvenile Court and the Probation Department maintain communications with community committees and agencies, in an effort to develop innovative services to enhance the development and the security of the Summit County Community.

TOTAL CASES ASSIGNED TO PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Sexual Offender Probation Unit

Terry Walton, Felony Disposition Supervisor

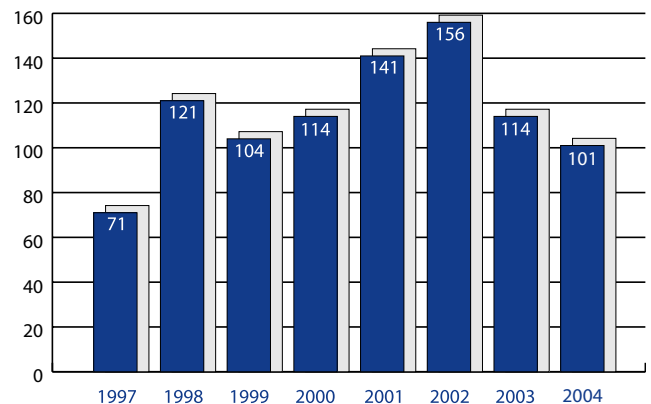
The Sexual Offender Probation unit is comprised of three full-time Probation Officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor. The caseload consists of approximately 90 youth who have been charged with or adjudicated delinquent by reason of sexually aggressive offense as describe in the Ohio Revised Code. In 2004, 101 incidents were referred to the Juvenile Court, reflecting a 12% decrease in referrals from 2003.

The unit's Probation Officers supervise their assigned youth from Intake through their term of treatment and/or probation. Probation Officers collaborate with Child Guidance and Family Solutions and other private providers to facilitate a sexual offender treatment program. These programs involve such things as group, individual or family counseling to help eliminate sexually aggressive behaviors. Probation Officers and Child Guidance also coordinate and lead the "Wise Guys" program for less serious offenders.

In 2004, the unit devoted considerable time toward reinforcing Megan's Law. The Probation Officers worked with the Summit County Sheriff's Department in preparing for classification hearings and meeting the law's requirements ensuring that the community's youthful offenders were properly registered and their addresses were updated.

Also in 2004, the Sexual Offenders Unit began work on a new protocol designed to secure treatment of the youngest of offenders and updating the unit's pre-sentence evaluation process and risk assessment. The unit also sponsored quarterly meetings a multi-county cluster of Probation Officers to share information and methods to supervise this type of population in their communities.

TOTAL SEXUAL OFFENDER INCIDENTS



Residential Placement Program

The Residential Placement Department determines what placement facility would be most appropriate for the youth requiring out-of-home placement. Placement ranges from therapeutic foster care to group homes to self-contained residential centers. Last year, 67 youth were in residential placement at a variety of facilities in Northeast Ohio and were supervised on probation.

The Crossroads Program

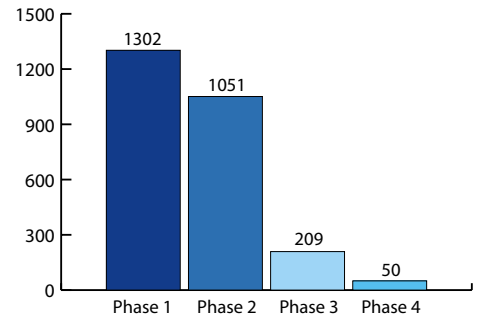
Dawn Jones, Administrator

Summit County Juvenile Court implemented a Drug Court in 1999. The mission and operation of this program changed when Judge Teodosio transformed the drug court into a co-occurring disorder court for youth with substance dependence and mental health issues. The Crossroads Program started in 2003 as a result of Judge Teodosio's vision. The methods used in operating the Crossroads Program have received national recognition as a model of how such programs should be run.

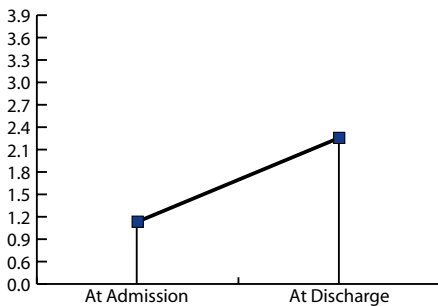
An independent evaluation of the program showed that the major goals of Crossroads are being achieved:

- The number of days participants spent in detention decreased significantly, indicating improved functionality in society.
- Participant's substance use was reduced significantly while in the program. Substance use is eliminated at the end of Crossroads Program.
- Participant's GPA improved significantly.
- Significant increase in the employment rate at discharge achieved the goal to increase participant's productivity and functionality in society.

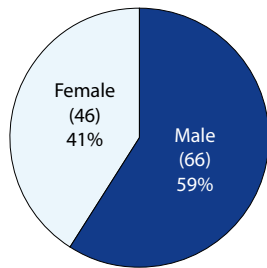
**DETENTION DAYS SERVED
(BY PHASES)**



**GPA IMPROVEMENT WHILE
IN CROSSROADS**



**YOUTH IN
CROSSROADS 2004**



Mental Health Diagnosis	# of Youth	Percent
Major Depressive Disorder	16	14.3
Dysthymic Disorder	6	5.4
Depressive Mood Disorder	4	3.6
Depressive Disorder NOS	13	11.6
Bipolar Disorder NOS	7	15.2
Cyclothymic Disorder	16	14.3
Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	9	8.0
Psychotic Disorders	0	0.0

Other Educational Milestones: GED earned = 1; Lifeskills Diplomas earned = 2; Digital Academy Diploma earned = 1. Alternative educational credits earned exceeded 40.

Psychology Department

Dr. Thomas Webb, Staff Psychologist

Service priorities shifted somewhat during 2004 with greater attention focused upon providing diagnostic and consultative support to the Crossroads Program for youth with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. This did not require additional staffing. During the year a reduction occurred in the number of requests for Bind-over Evaluations allowing more time for dealing with the needs presented by co-occurring youth in Crossroads. Interns from local universities who typically would have been assigned to the psychology service, now are routinely assigned to assist case management in Crossroads. Better access to psychological evaluations and records already available in the community have also reduced some need for newly administered psychoeducational evaluations. While more efficient ways of providing clinical consultation have been forthcoming, the department continues to provide crisis counseling on a 24/7 basis to detained youth and works with community agencies to expedite their treatment efforts with children and families under the jurisdiction of the Court.

More than five hundred clinical diagnostic and interventions were performed during the year. These involved not only formal evaluations of the youth offender but, in some cases, consultation with the parent as well. Of the evaluations, only six (6) involved transfer of jurisdiction to the adult system. Mr. Bendo tested sixty-five (65) youth for psychoeducational status and Dr. Webb provided innumerable counseling sessions to youth on an emergency basis within the Detention Center. Approximately two hundred hours were devoted to routine case staffing.

CASA/GAL Department

Julie Wayman, 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 and neglected children in court. As a party in the proceedings, it is the role of the CASA/GAL 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, with grants from 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.

In 2004, the CASA/GAL Department once again established a program record with **265** child advocates who represented **1,171** 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. Once again, the program maintained its status as an accredited program with the Ohio CASA/GAL Association.

Additionally, for the first time in 2004, the CASA/GAL Toy Shop and the Court's Toy Project coordinated its efforts into one event, providing holiday gifts to over 400 children in care.

Citizen's Review Board

Rita Rochford, Director

The Citizen's Review Board consists of community volunteers who assure 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 medical backgrounds or other significant community involvement. The Board meets several times a week to review the status of children in the permanent custody of Children's Services Board. The Board ensures that the needs of the children are being met and that CSB is using reasonable efforts to facilitate the child's permanency plan which is normally adoption.

Board 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 if necessary to maintain the child's welfare or permanency plan.

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

In 2004, there were 290 children on the Citizen Review Board's caseload with approximately 395* review hearings on its docket.

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

The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court

The Women's Board is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to helping children involved in the juvenile justice system. The Board routinely sponsors activities within the Court and extends its philanthropy to Court-related activities whenever needed.

The Women's Board conducted several fund-raising events throughout the year to aid in underwriting requests for financial assistance from the Court. Those activities included its annual Style Show Luncheon, Hobby Auction and plant sale.

The Women's Board played an integral role in the Court's expansion of its library. The Women's Board sought and received grant monies of \$5,000 each from The Cleveland Browns Foundation and the Sisler-McFawn Foundation.

With the completion of the construction project, Board members were able resume its weekly activities and volunteerism, logging nearly 5,000 volunteer hours at the Court.

The Court thanks the Women's Board for its involvement, concern and generosity in 2004.

2004 Highlights for the Summit County Juvenile Court **Under the Leadership of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio**

- **Completion of the Construction Project:** When the \$21 million dollar project was completed, there was the task of making the transition from the former office and courtroom area to the new administrative offices and courtrooms. When the time came to make that move, the Court didn't miss a beat. In fact, Judge Teodosio recessed a hearing on the last day in her former courtroom and continued the next work day in her new courtroom. Prior planning by the Judge, construction staff, court administrators and department heads allowed the Court to make an almost seamless move to the new building. It was business as usual on March 15, 2004, the first day Court staff worked in the new addition. Since that time, the efficiency of the Court has been greatly enhanced because of the improvements that have been made to the William P. Kannel Juvenile Court Center.
- **Technological Upgrades:** When Judge Teodosio began her administration of the Juvenile Court, it was apparent that the Court was behind in the technology that was available to improve the manner in which the Court operated on a daily basis. One of the first improvements made in that area was the installation of a Digital Recording System. Every courtroom was equipped with recording devices that placed the day's proceedings on DVD media, making it more accessible for review. New computers and networked printers were installed so that all staff can take advantage of available technology that improves efficiency and service.
- **Library Expansion:** One of the key improvements sought by Judge Teodosio was the expansion of the Court's library in the Detention Center. In 2004, the volume of books available increased from under 500 to over 2,000. With assistance from the Women's Board, grant monies from The Cleveland Browns Foundation and The Sisler-McFawn Foundation were used for the purchase of books and hardware. Scholastic Books, local libraries, area organizations, churches and synagogues and private citizens also played an integral role in the expansion of the library.
- **Tutor Programs:** In order to address the needs of children involved in the system who are reading below grade level, a child may be ordered to participate in a fifteen-week tutoring program at the Court. Tutors use books, computer programs, audio and video materials to enhance the child's reading ability. A program is also offered in the Detention Center. At designated times, detainees can visit the library and check out books. A tutor also visits the Detention Center once a week to assist youth with reading skills. Akron Public School teachers, who work with the detainees during the day, provide valuable assistance in identifying students who need additional help. The need for a tutoring program became more apparent when it was discovered that many of the detainees are several grade levels below average in reading and comprehension skills. The goals of the tutoring programs are to increase reading skills and provide the youth with enough confidence to remain in school.
- **The Student Board:** In 2004, Judge Teodosio established a county-wide Student Board. Each high school in Summit County was encouraged to appoint a student to represent their school at periodic meetings at the Court. The representatives serve as a conduit between the Court, their schools and their communities and discussed issues pertinent to today's students and how the Court can assist in responding to those issues.
- **Female-Specific After-School Program:** The Court contracted with Akron UMADAOP to provide an adolescent female-specific day treatment program. The T.R.U.C.E. (Teen Girls Resisting Unhealthy Choices Everyday) Program works with Court-referred girls between the ages of 13 and 17. They meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00pm until 7:00pm and the length of the program is six months. The curriculum deals with such issues as cultural awareness, conflict resolution, career building, drug and alcohol abuse, basic life skills, health and recreation. The TRUCE Program can serve up to 25 girls at a time. Although, this program has only been operating since November 1, 2004, the Court has already seen positive results.

These achievements would not have been possible without the professionalism and dedication displayed by the individuals listed on the following page: the employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court.

Summit County Juvenile Court Employees

Robert Aaron
Bruce Alexander
Dawne Alford
Akaree Anderson
Brock Arrington
Laura Asbury
Faye Atha
Roy Attieh
David C. Bailey
Tammy Barnes
Tavia Baxter
Terry Bendo
Kathy Bertsch
Bob Bickett
Patty Blasio
Jennifer Bond
Mary Bonetti
Jon Booher
Anita Boyer
Ellery Bradford
Kimberly Brooks
Beverly Brown
Sandra Brown
Bryan Bryce
Mary Burney
Alfonzo Bush
Lorrie Campbell
Jeannie Cargill
Tom Cerne
Brad Christman
Sonya Cole
Delmar Coleman
Dinah Coleman-Turner
Bob Cox
Robin Crocker
Reggie Crook
Jason Dack
William Davis
John DeHaven
Jennifer Dinkins
Pam Dunaway
Lisa Eagle
Cheryl Evans
Ruby Fair
Chris Falconer
Jackie Farrance
Lori Favalon
Darnell Fears
Chris Fergus
Kevin Floyd
Brian Fogle
Darin Ford
Tom Gaffney
Ursula Gould
Norma Green
Don Guthrie
Julianna Hackett-Evans
Karen Haddad
Jessica Haney
Sherri Hankton

Michael Harvey
Lisa Hawes
Willie Hawkins
Katie Herman
Michael Herman
Jessica Heropulos
Kandy Hixson
Chanin Holland
David Holmgren
David Horner
Shilo Hooks
Curtis Howard
Althea Jackson
Jerry James
Martha Jeffries
Nate Johnson
Tammy Johnson
Brenda Johnson-Young
Dawn Jones
Lisa Karas
Amanda Keeler
Allen Kelly
Judi Keyes
Maria Kostoff
Irene Kuckovic
Greg Lewis
Jeanette Lewis
Richard Lilly
Barbara List
Donald Lomax
Leslie Lorenz
Phil Lucco
Keith Luhring
Cameron Mack
Melissa Madden
Chris Martin
Stacey Mathieu
Tracy Mays
Kristin Maxwell
Rob McCarty
Olivia McClelland
Denise McGuckin
Mary Ann Mendlik
David Mollis
Kandy Monroe
Gladys Moore
Robert Moore
Phyllis Moss
Lynda Mullins
Patrick Munford
Lora Mycoskie
Keysha Myers
Shanda Nagle
Michelle Neely
Keith Nelson
Laura Palmeri
Linda Palmeri
Jeanne Papoi
Karen Parnell
Kim Pay

Stephanie Peterson
Joe Petrucelli
Keith Philpot
Jonathan Pooler
Jeff Pope
Raylene Pruszkowski
Hema Ramachandran
Christine Rees
Leslie Rice
Tammy Richardson
Cathy Richardson-Thomas
Julie Roberts
Grace Robinson
Rita Rochford
Kristine Ruiz
Gail Rutherford
Michael Sales
Rebecca Scalise
Robert Scalise
Todd Schaffler
Cory Schweigert
Reginald Scott
Kathryn Sellers
Charles Shinn
Cheryl Simpson
Justin Sims
Annie Skapin
Linda Slates
Latana Slayton
Eric Small
Carie Smith
Thomas Smith
Edward Smolk
Mike Soyars
Willie Spencer
Sara Stenger
David Stevens
Pam Strachan
Maureen Sullivan
Esther Thomas
Jody Tolley
Denise Truxell
Don Ursetti
John Vuillemin
Elaine Waldsmith
Brandy Walters
Terry Walton
Julie Wayman
Dr. Thomas Webb
Eddie Winstead
James Whited
Tim Wilkes
Michelle Williams
Kevin Williams
Jane Wilson
Quin Wychanko
Lisa Zeno Carano
Marie Zold

Copies printed: 1,000
Cost per copy: \$1.847 each