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SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, JUVENILE DIVISION

# Leadership

Linda Tucci Teodosio  
**Judge**

Robert McCarty  
**Chief Magistrate**

Katherine Bertsch  
Jaime Blair  
Daniel Cody  
Amber Crowe  
David Fish  
Thomas Freeman  
Brett Hammond  
Laura Lynd-Robinson  
Douglas McDougal  
Denise McGuckin  
Mary Ann Mendlik  
Milton Rankins  
Rita Rochford  
Lee Ann Schaffer  
**Magistrates**

Robert Bickett  
**Court Administrator**

David Horner  
**Assistant Court Administrator**

Curtis Howard  
**Assistant Court Administrator**

Woody Tyrrell  
**Grants Administrator**

Melissa Gerney  
**Superintendent**



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# A message from Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



2021 was a year of significant progress! As the COVID-19 pandemic persisted, my administration exemplified great fortitude and remained steadfast in its commitment to serving children and families throughout Summit County.

Summit County Juvenile Court forged ahead despite the non-stop safety and operational challenges. I am proud to say that we adopted and mastered the 'new normal' in the same year.

Once in-person, virtual, and hybrid service delivery structures were in place, our focus was on making advancements in child welfare, social justice, specialized dockets, technology, and more.

Highlights from 2021 include:

- Achieving Supreme Court of Ohio recertification status for the three specialized dockets (Crossroads, Family Reunification through Recovery Court, and Restore Court) operated by Summit County Juvenile Court.
- Improving court operations through technology (e-Filing, text notifications, state-of-the-art video conferencing technology, mounted television screens, etc.). Together, these modernization efforts have prepared Summit County Juvenile Court to deliver services to children and families for years to come.
- Participating in a Breakthrough Series Collaborative facilitated by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Center for Children's Law and Policy. The collaborative seeks to identify strategies for reducing and eliminating racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities faced by youth of color involved with the juvenile justice system and improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities.
- Piloting the State of Ohio's first multidisciplinary legal representation team. Summit County Juvenile Court's Multidisciplinary Representation Team consists of attorneys specializing in child welfare law, case coordinators with a background in social work, and parent advocates with lived child welfare experience. Together, they work to improve and expedite positive outcomes for children and parents involved in the child welfare system.

2021 marked the beginning of my fourth term in office. I am incredibly proud of my administration's progress in 2021; it is only through the extraordinary effort, grit, and resiliency of Summit County Juvenile Court staff and our partners in the justice system that such significant achievements were made.

Sincerely,

*Linda Tucci Teodosio*

# Financial Statement

## County, State, and Federal Funding

### County Funding

General Office/Judicial .....	\$2,615,539
Probation/Administration .....	\$1,986,314
Summit County Juvenile Detention Center .....	\$3,214,563
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,816,416</b>

### State & Federal Grant Funding

Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice .....	\$272,157
CASA Volunteer Board .....	\$66,262
National CASA .....	\$18,938
National School Lunch Program .....	\$47,506
Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy .....	\$143,578
RECLAIM Ohio .....	\$4,649,431
State Victims Assistance .....	\$3,286
Summit County ADM Detention MH Services .....	\$245,346
Supreme Court of Ohio MRT .....	\$46,995
TANF XX Family Resource Center .....	\$606,445
Title IV-E .....	\$106,784
Title XX Guardian ad Litem .....	\$391,000
Title XX/TANF Job Reentry .....	\$115,000
Victims of Crime .....	\$132,799
Victims of Human Trafficking .....	\$243,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,088,937</b>

### Expenditures

Contract Services .....	\$2,152,716
Personnel/Salaries & Benefits .....	\$11,327,147
Other .....	\$1,425,490
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,905,353</b>



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# Contract Service Providers

## Supported by State and Federal Funding

### Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program

Village Network ..... \$133,000

### Community Service/Restitution Program

Funds to Victims ..... \$7,707

### Competency Evaluations

Lighthouse Family Center ..... \$11,900

Summit Psychological Associates ..... \$1,150

### Diversion Programming

Police Departments and Summit Co. Sheriff's Office ..... \$210,575

*\*Distributed in varying amounts to 11 local law enforcement agencies.*

### Electronic Monitoring

Oriana House, Inc. .... \$95,247

### Long-Term Out of Home Placement

Various Placement Agencies ..... \$309,851

### Mentoring

Akron Area Y.M.C.A. .... \$20,530

Akron U.M.A.D.A.O.P. .... \$3,680

RAHAB Ministries ..... \$25,000

Young Scholars Mentoring Center ..... \$11,490

### Out of Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter ..... \$98,550

Summit County Family & Children First Council (FCFC) ..... \$131,084

*\*Summit County Juvenile Court's share of the FCFC/Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement.*

### Short-Term Out of Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment ..... \$20,520

### Youth & Family Counseling

Greenleaf Family Center ..... \$79,000



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# Grant Funding

## Creating, Maintaining, and Expanding Court Programming

### Federal Title XX/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Funding

CASA/GAL Child Advocate Team .....	\$536,931
Family Resource Center .....	\$679,101
Jobs Re-entry Program.....	\$115,000
Restore Court .....	\$188,640



\*Grants administered by the County of Summit Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.

### Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and Ohio Department of Youth Services Funding

Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice .....	\$296,569
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\*Grants administered in collaboration with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board.

### Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Specialized Docket Funding

Crossroads, Family Reunification through Recovery Court, and Restore Court .....	\$151,421
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\*The specialized dockets above have been certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Grants are administered by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services under Ohio House Bill 483.



### Ohio Department of Public Safety



Electronic Citation Special Funding .....	\$37,600
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### Supreme Court of Ohio Grants

Multidisciplinary Legal Representation .....	\$150,000
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### VOCA/SVAA Grants for Advocates

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) .....	\$86,842
State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) .....	\$3,286



\*The grants above were awarded to the CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court. Grants administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. To view additional CASA/GAL funding sources see page 19.

**“Grant funding committed to the court for special programming/projects in 2021 totaled, \$2,245,390. Thirty-one full-time and part-time court positions and several positions/programs for partnering community service providers are supported through these funding streams.”**

Woody Tyrrell, Grants Administrator  
Summit County Juvenile Court

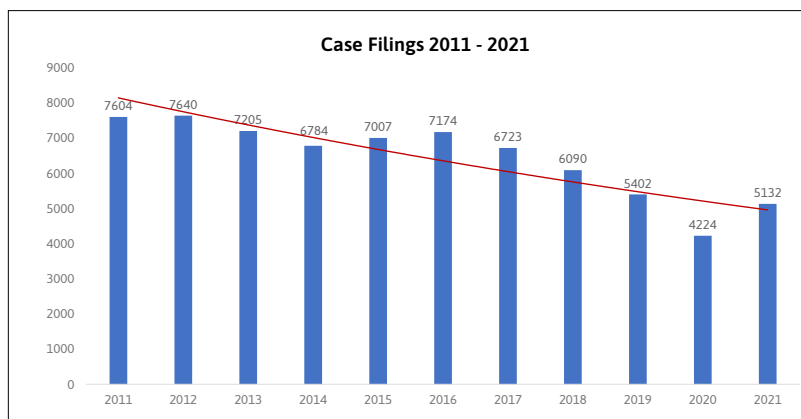


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# New Case Filings

## Data Trends and Fund Collections

Case Types	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Traffic	1709	1549	1625	1458	1442	1441	1591	1292	1207	1142	1201
Delinquency	3139	3064	2682	2591	2700	2687	2232	1626	1429	925	1050
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	858	805	832	843	915	1062	1022	1289	1030	880	1019
Truancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	439	557	927
Unofficial	625	902	776	703	664	655	884	1016	503	390	322
Unruly	388	401	283	259	253	257	244	349	287	182	320
Failure to Send	464	420	492	431	607	532	277	102	123	52	191
Grandparent	115	123	165	148	88	129	127	85	98	65	63
Protection Order	25	33	30	34	40	43	28	33	24	12	28
Contributing *Adult	18	17	13	19	15	12	10	13	7	9	6
Permanent Surrender	9	14	14	10	11	13	9	7	4	4	5
Legal Custody	254	312	293	288	272	343	299	278	251	6	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7604</b>	<b>7640</b>	<b>7205</b>	<b>6784</b>	<b>7007</b>	<b>7174</b>	<b>6723</b>	<b>6090</b>	<b>5402</b>	<b>4224</b>	<b>5132</b>



Although the number of cases filed in 2021 increased from those filed during the 2020 COVID year, Summit County Juvenile Court has experienced a consistent decrease in case filings since 2016. Moreover, the number of cases filed in 2021 fell below those filed in 2019.

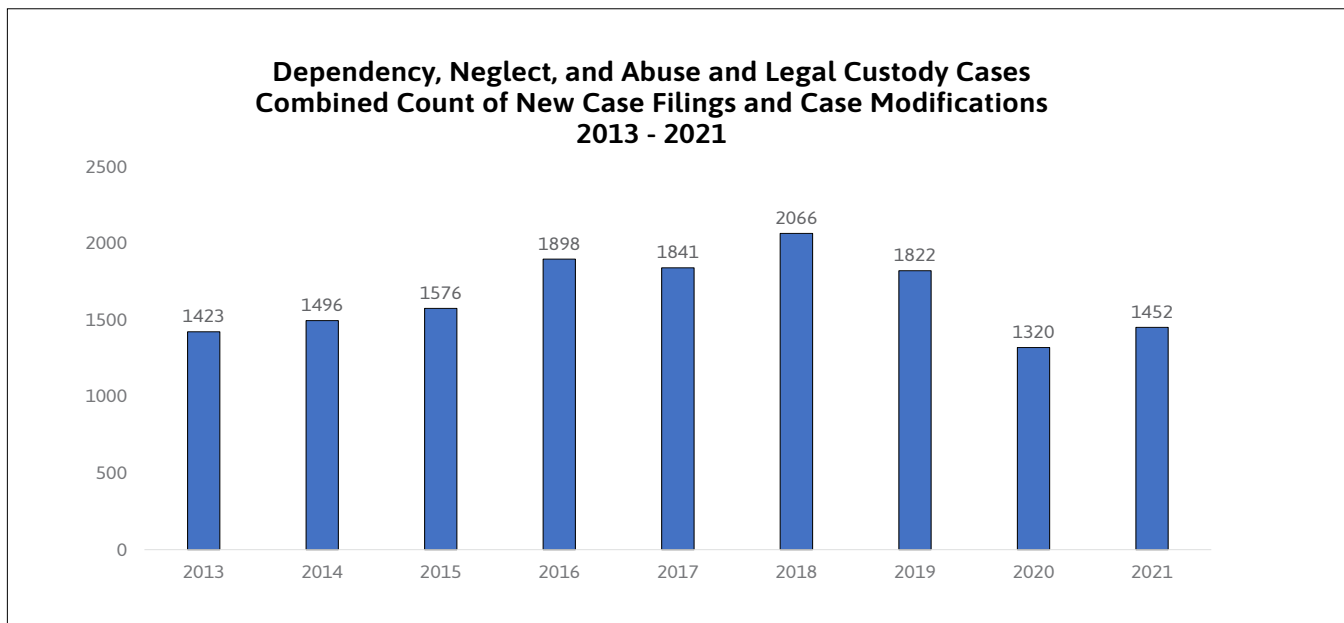
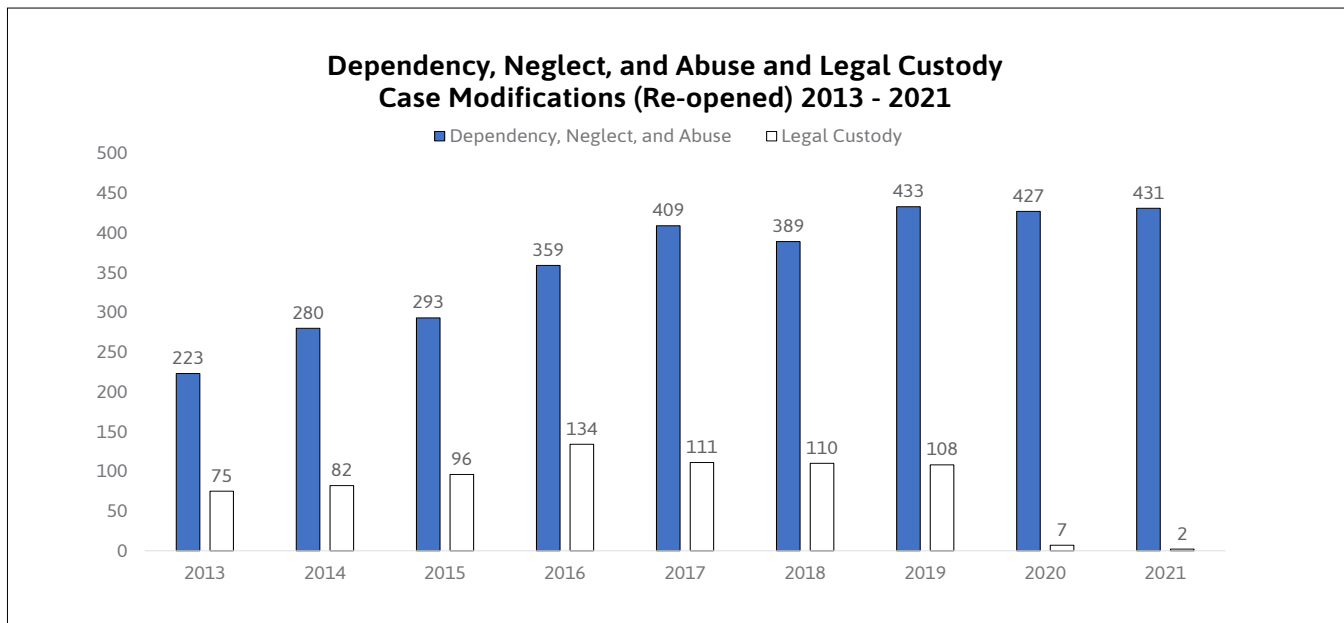


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Summit County Juvenile Court Clerk's Office 2021 Fund Collections	Total
Payments of Fines and Costs in Delinquency, Unruly or Adult Cases.	\$1,525
Traffic Fines and Costs, Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund, Indigent Defense Support Fund, and Legal Aid Society Fund	\$59,597.90
Restitution	\$10,279.68
Computer and Legal Research, Special Fees, Victims of Crime, County and Clerk Fees, Indigent Application Fees and Credit Card Fees	\$69,681.30
Staying Accident Free through Education (SAFTE) Program	\$5,902
Merchant Services	\$1,587.25
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$148,573.13</b>

# Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse and Legal Custody Cases

## New Filings, Case Modifications, and Combined Count



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# Family Resource Center and Diversion Department

## Diversion from Formal Juvenile Court Processing

**Family Resource Center and Diversion Department** specializes in providing case management to Summit County youth experiencing behavior problems at home or at school, truancy issues, violence and conflict in the home, pregnant and or parenting teens, job readiness and job search. Additionally, any misdemeanor charge excluding offenses of violence, that are diversion eligible are processed in this unit and treated in a diversionary manner, instead of an official court filing. Families are offered the opportunity to take advantage of case management as part of the diversion process. The goal is to strengthen families and to avoid any further involvement of the youth with the Juvenile Justice System.

**In 2021, the Family Resource Center and Diversion Department served 570 clients (301 were youth). 463 clients completed case plan goals or diversion requirements. 210 youth were referred for case management as an outcome of their diversion session. 83% of the youth referred successfully completed diversion requirements resulting in their charge being sealed.**

*\*The information above represents data collected by the Family Resource Center and Diversion Department throughout the 2021 calendar year.*

*\*Summit County youth and families do not need to be court-involved to take advantage of the preventative services being offered by the Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center receives funding through the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.*



## House Bill 410 on Habitual Truancy

Required by House Bill 410 on Habitual Truancy	Total
Number of children placed in alternatives to adjudication under division (G) of Section 2151.27 of the ORC.	927
Number of children who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication.	617
Number of children who failed to complete alternatives to adjudication and were adjudicated unruly.	35

**Misdemeanor Services** processes misdemeanor complaints that have failed to successfully complete diversion requirements and complaints that are not eligible for diversion services through the Family Resource Center. Complaints processed by misdemeanor services are cases that will be officially filed by the court and processed in a courtroom.



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**In 2021, 145 cases were referred to Misdemeanor Services.**

*\*The information above represents data collected by Summit County Juvenile Court from June 1st through December 31st, 2021.*

# Delinquency Dispositions Reported by Gender

2021 Delinquency Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Obey Home and School Rules	82	188	270
Child to Attend School	32	134	166
House Arrest	20	115	135
Traditional Probation Order	10	91	101
Firearm Safety Education	1	69	70
Individual Counseling	18	28	46
Referral to the Village Network	3	41	44
Restitution	12	27	39
Thinking for a Change	-	38	38
Substance Abuse Evaluation	8	20	28
Letter of Apology	7	18	25
Crossroads Probation Order	3	21	24
Essay	5	14	19
Offender Specific Probation	-	14	14
Community Correctional Facility	-	13	13
Commit to Detention	-	12	12
Commit to the Ohio Department of Youth Services	2	6	8
Restore Court Probation Order	6	2	8
Mandatory Bindover	-	7	7
Admit to Residential Placement	-	3	3
Parole Revocation	1	1	2
Referral to Child Guidance	-	2	2
Others	2490	8008	10498

*The table above features the standardized delinquency dispositions ordered by Summit County Juvenile Court in 2021, as tracked by its case management system. The majority of the delinquency dispositions ordered by Summit County Juvenile Court are not reported on this chart, as they are individualized to meet the rehabilitative and treatment needs of the child.*

**5 youth were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (4 commitments and 1 revocation). 5 youth were transferred through the bind-over process to the General Division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court.**

*\*The information above represents data collected throughout the 2021 calendar year. Please note, youth may be committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services on multiple cases.*

**In 2021, 51 youth successfully completed the Firearm Safety Education program (50 males and 1 female).**

# Probation Services

## Promoting Personal Growth, Positive Behavior and Success

**Probation Services** allows adjudicated youth to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation case manager. Probation case managers are assigned to provide support and guidance and assist the youth and family with the court experience. Using evidence-based tools and interventions, probation case managers are responsible for promoting positive behavior change.

**In 2021, Probation Services was responsible for supervising 234 youth on probation (108 youth remained on probation from the previous year and 126 were assigned to complete a new term of probation in 2021). 105 youth successfully completed probation.**

2021 Successful Probation Completions by Probation Type	Total
Crossroads	7
Offender Specific Unit	14
Traditional	84



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**Probation Transformation** efforts depend heavily on data outcome measures to identify ineffective compliance driven probation approaches that too often result in deeper penetration into the justice system.

**In 2021, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, along with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, invited Summit County Juvenile Court to become a nationally recognized probation transformation site, one of only 26 sites in the country and 9 sites throughout the State of Ohio.**



**Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice** grant funding provided by the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, allows the court to offer treatment (Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment and Trauma-Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and support services (mentoring, parent advocacy, pro-social activities, respite care, tutoring, etc.) to approximately 40-50 felony court involved youth on probation annually. BHJJ funded treatment and services are provided by the following court partners: The Village Network, Child Guidance & Family Solutions, Greenleaf Family Center, Akron Area YMCA, and Sylvan Learning Center.

Through BHJJ funding, the court is able to employ a case manager to work directly with felony youth on probation; as well as, their family members, to develop an individualized case plan to ensure that the appropriate treatments and services are in place and being properly accessed. To monitor the progress being made by youth and families receiving treatment and/or services funded with Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice grant dollars, periodic review hearings are conducted by a magistrate who utilizes a system of incentives/rewards and sanctions to promote full engagement.

2021 New Referrals to BHJJ Funded Therapeutic Services	Total
Child Guidance	2
Village Network	28

# Restorative Justice Dispositions

## Community Service, Special Programs and Restitution

**Community Service** is often assigned to juveniles as a part of their dispositional orders. To assist court-involved youth in fulfilling community service hours, the court maintains a list of participating non-profit agencies (churches, community organizations, schools) in need of service and provides opportunities at Summit County Juvenile Court. Community service hours may be fulfilled individually or as part of a work crew led under the supervision of a court employee (parental consent is required).

Juvenile offenders who contribute \$40 of appropriate goods to court-led **special projects** (clothing, food, and toy drives) may be eligible to receive credit for up to eight hours (maximum, per case) of community service. Proof of purchase must be presented. Clothing and food collections are distributed by the Family Resource Center and Diversion Services to families and youth in need. Toys are gifted to abused and neglected children being serviced by the CASA/GAL department at Summit County Juvenile Court.

**In 2021, 84 hours of community service were ordered (60 hours were assigned as dispositional orders and 24 hours were assigned as diversion requirements). A total of 110 hours of community service were completed throughout the year. \$240 was collected in support of special projects (\$80 was collected through dispositional orders and \$160 was collected through diversion requirements).**

The **Child Responsibility Project** provides juvenile offenders with meaningful work experience while holding them accountable for their delinquent acts that result in property damage, property loss or personal injury. By performing community service activities at an hourly wage (under the supervision of a court employee), project participants can pay **restitution** (\$600 maximum, per case) to the victim of their offense. The Summit County Fiscal Office facilitates the distribution of all restitution dollars to victims.



**In 2021, 24 youth completed 886 hours of restitution through the Child Responsibility Project.**



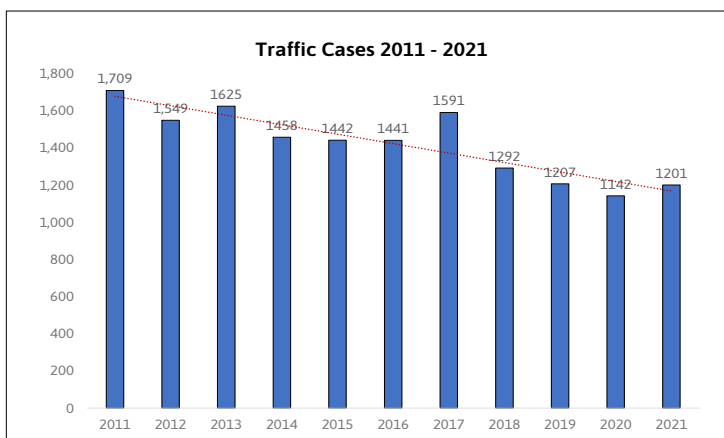
**Summit County Juvenile Court's adopted Keep Akron Beautiful site is annually prepared, planted and maintained by court-involved youth participating in the Child Responsibility Project.**



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# Traffic Dispositions Reported by Gender

2021 Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Traffic Fine	339	445	784
Cost Ordered	338	441	779
Essay	197	207	404
Staying Accident Free through Education (SAFTE)	84	141	225
Driving Privileges Granted	62	113	175
14-Day Driving School	45	83	128
Drivers License (Suspension/Probationary License Restricted)	66	128	194
Driver Seat Belt Fine	10	21	31
Non-Moving Court Costs	6	18	24
Passenger Seat Belt Fine	-	1	1
Curfew	1	-	1
Others	1059	1799	2858



Although the number of traffic cases filed in 2021 increased from those filed during the 2020 Covid year, Summit County Juvenile Court has experienced a consistent decrease in traffic case filings since 2017. Moreover, the number of cases filed in 2021 fell below those filed in 2019.



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**Staying Accident Free through Education (SAFTE)** is a voluntary diversion and education program for first-time juvenile traffic offenders for certain low level traffic offenses. The program also seeks to educate parents and guardians on the dangers commonly experienced by teen drivers and their parental responsibilities.

**In 2021, 225 youth were ordered to complete the SAFTE program (11 youth were assigned through dispositional orders and 214 youth were assigned through diversion requirements). 141 of the program participants were male and 84 of the program participants were female.**



# Access to Justice

## Removing Communication Barriers

2021 Interpreters	Total
Nepali	68
Spanish	22
American Sign Language	13
Swahili	6
Farsi	5
Karen	3
Burmese	2
K'iche'	2
Arabic	1

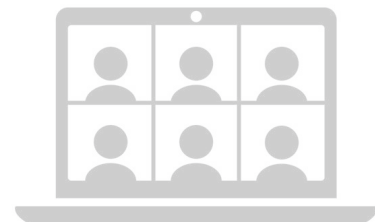
**In 2021, Summit County Juvenile Court coordinated 122 interpreter assignments at a cost of \$19,507.85.**



*The number of interpreter assignments featured above do not include Summit County Juvenile Court's use of LanguageLine Solutions, an interpreter service offered through the Supreme Court of Ohio.*

2021 Family Mediation Outcomes	Total
Full Resolution	51
Partial Resolution	35
No Resolution	29
Unspecified	2

**In 2021, Summit County Juvenile Court coordinated 117 family mediation sessions at a cost of \$13,824.50.**



*In 2021, 93 mediation sessions were facilitated virtually, 20 mediation sessions were facilitated in-person, three mediation sessions were facilitated hybrid (in-person and virtual participants), and one mediation session was facilitated by telephone conference.*



**By 2021, Meeting Owl Pros and mounted television screens were installed inside every courtroom throughout the building.**

*A Meeting Owl Pro is a 360° camera, mic, and speaker system specifically designed to create a frictionless video conferencing experience between those who appear for court in-person and those who participate virtually.*

# Summit County Juvenile Detention Center

## A Short-Term Holding Facility

**Summit County Juvenile Detention Center** is a secure, short-term holding facility for youth who are a threat to public safety. The facility is open 24-hours a day, 365-days a year.

To protect the health and safety of youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center amid the COVID-19 pandemic, visitations between juveniles and parents/guardians, court staff, and members of the community were mainly facilitated virtually throughout 2021. Using video conferencing technology, youth maintained close contact with their families, connecting face-to-face regularly.

In the summer of 2021, Akron Public Schools facilitated an in-person summer enrichment program for youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center. The eight-week program offered lessons in language arts (Spanish), music and poetry classes.

Akron Public Schools continued their in-person instructions at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. In-person cultural enrichment activities (art, library, and yoga) complimented the curriculum. As COVID-19 restrictions tightened, instructors were able to pivot to virtual classrooms with ease.

In 2021, the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center achieved re-accreditation status from the American Correctional Association (ACA). ACA accreditation validates the court's commitment to enhancing the conditions of confinement in a manner that is consistent with the national standards. The Summit County Juvenile Detention Center has successfully maintained ACA accreditation status since 2015.

Secure Admissions by Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	224	78%
Female	64	22%
Total	288	100%

Secure Admissions by Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
African American	204	71%
White	56	19%
Two or more races	19	7%
Other	9	3%
Total	288	100%

\*Average Daily Population, 23.



**Summit County Juvenile Court Detention Mental Health Clinician Kandice Lacy, MSW, LISW-S, was named the 2021 Social Worker of the Year by the Ohio Chapter (Region 2) of the National Association of Social Workers.**



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# Commitment to Juvenile Justice Reform

## Improving Outcomes for Youth, Families, and Communities

**Breakthrough Series Collaborative** is a collaborative effort facilitated by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Center for Children's Law & Policy. The collaborative seeks to identify strategies for reducing and eliminating racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities faced by youth of color involved with the juvenile justice system and to improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

Summit County is one of five teams nationally working together with stakeholders to transform their juvenile justice system by charting pathways and processes that lead to juvenile justice involvement; identifying key decision points that create disparities; and developing and testing practices and processes that advance community-based services and supports, including alternatives to system involvement.



**Dually Involved Youth (DIY) Initiative** is a service delivery process used to improve outcomes for youth who are simultaneously involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice system. The main component of the DIY initiative is to enhance communication with Summit County Children Services with an emphasis on increased levels of collaboration to best meet the needs of youth and families.

**In 2021, 268 referrals were made to the Dually Involved Youth Initiative (153 males and 115 females).**

**Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)** is a juvenile justice reform model founded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and backed by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, that has proven to be effective in safely reducing juvenile detention populations and spurring broader system advancements.

- **Deep End Reform:** Summit County is one of three counties in the State of Ohio to expand its reform practices to the deep end (dispositional end) of the juvenile justice system. This expanded focus on reform concentrates on safely and significantly reducing out-of-home placements for youth, especially youth of color.

**In 2021, 53 youth were released from detention and supervised through the Detention Alternative Release Program (DARP). 83% of youth program participants were successful.**



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# Court Appointed Special Advocates

## Advocating for the Best Interests of the Child

**Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL)** is a department of the court that exists to recruit, train and support staff, and community volunteers who are committed to advocating for the best interests of abused, neglected, and dependent children involved in the Summit County child welfare system.

CASA/GAL staff and volunteers assist the court by providing judges and magistrates with the critical information needed to ensure that the basic and essential needs of each child are not overlooked.

**In 2021, 800 children were served by staff and CASA volunteers. 38 of the 202 CASA volunteers were newly trained in 2021.**

*\*The CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court is funded with assistance from the CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization that exists to promote and support volunteers in partnership with the court. In addition to funding allocations from the National CASA Association, the CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court is backed by Victims of Crime Act and State Victims Assistance Act (VOCA/SVAA) grants administered through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court is also supported monetarily by federal Title XX/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds distributed by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.*



### **In 2021, CASA staff and volunteers were trained on the following topics:**

- **The History of Racism and the Concerns Surrounding Racial Justice & Black Lives Matter;**
- **Defining Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion;**
- **Identifying the Complexities of Implicit and Unconscious Bias;**
- **The intersection Between Addiction and Trauma;**
- **Professional Boundaries; and**
- **Compassion Fatigue.**



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# Specialized Dockets

## Recertified by the Supreme Court of Ohio



**Crossroads** is a Supreme Court of Ohio certified specialized docket dedicated to cases involving youth participating in intensive probation service for juvenile offenders with a mental health diagnosis, a substance use disorder, or both (dual diagnosis). Through Crossroads, the court partners with community-based service providers to offer youth and families treatment for mental health challenges and substance use disorders. A treatment team, consisting of representatives from local mental health and drug and alcohol treatment agencies, meets bi-weekly to assure that Crossroads involved juveniles are receiving the appropriate level of care. To ensure compliance, youth and family members must appear periodically before court officials for reviews. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, youth participants who complete the specialized docket curriculum may be eligible to have the charges that brought them to the attention of the court dismissed and sealed.

**In 2021, 6 youth successfully graduated from the Crossroads specialized docket.**

**Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC)** is a Supreme Court of Ohio certified specialized docket of the court that exists to quickly, creatively, and effectively partner with court-involved families in which substance use is a contributing issue to Summit County Children Services' removal of a child/children from home, and to address substance misuse and other family challenges to create a healthy, stable home environment that allows the family to permanently reunify. A comprehensive system of services is utilized through a partnership with Summit County Children Services and several local mental health, substance abuse treatment, and social service provider agencies to achieve goals. Weekly treatment team meetings and review hearings are held to ensure participant engagement, program compliance, and advancement toward rehabilitation and reunification with their children.

**In 2021, 6 parents successfully graduated from the Family Reunification through Recovery Court specialized docket. 5 families were reunified.**

**Restore Court** is a Supreme Court of Ohio certified specialized docket that exists to divert juvenile victims of human trafficking from the justice system to a safe, supportive, and comprehensive system of restorative care. Participating youth may receive services through Safe Harbor Diversion through which, qualifying charges may be dismissed upon completion, a more traditional probation track or intensive case management, mentoring and other services provided by Restore staff to youth identified as being at high risk to become victims. Summit County Department of Job and Family Services provides funding for services. In all these scenarios, caregivers are also encouraged to participate and offered services to meet the needs of the family.

Restore Court services empower youth/families involved in human trafficking and those at high risk to achieve successful lives. The program combines evidence-based practices, such as trauma informed treatment and substance abuse counseling with services and activities that promote connection, healing, and self-worth as a way of intervening and diverting youth from the path as early as possible.



Department of Job and Family Services

**In 2021, 5 youth successfully graduated from the Restore Court specialized docket.**



# Summit County Juvenile Court pilots Ohio's first Multidisciplinary Representation Team

In 2021, Ohio's first multidisciplinary representation team was piloted by Summit County Juvenile Court.

Summit County Juvenile Court's Multidisciplinary Representation Team (MRT) was initially assembled to include three attorneys specializing in child welfare law, a case coordinator with a background in social work, and a parent advocate with lived child welfare experience.

The team expanded to include eight attorneys, two case coordinators, and two parent advocates within less than a year.

The team of 12 worked to improve and expedite positive outcomes for children and parents involved in the child welfare system.

Research shows that through this approach, children of parents represented by a multidisciplinary team spent almost four months less in foster care and achieved permanency, including reunification and guardianship, faster than children of parents who received solo attorney representation (Children & Youth Services Review, 2019).

This data and outcomes from many similar research studies have sparked the emergence of the multidisciplinary approach nationwide.



**Veronica McNair**  
Parent Advocate



**James Warner**  
Case Coordinator

Ongoing support and cooperation for the pilot are provided by Greenleaf Family Center, Summit County Children Services, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, and the Supreme Court of Ohio.

For more information on Multidisciplinary Representation Teams, visit [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_interest/child\\_law/resources/child\\_law\\_practiceonline/january---december-2019/providing-parents-multidisciplinary-legal-representation-signifi/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/january---december-2019/providing-parents-multidisciplinary-legal-representation-signifi/).



## Pilot Year

**In 2021, 14 cases were assigned to the Multidisciplinary Representation Team. Three of the 14 cases closed. Of the three closed cases, one child achieved permanency and two families were reunified.**

# The Parent Project

## A Resource for Families Seeking Help

The Parent Project is a free, evidence-based 10-session class that helps parents acquire the tools needed to change destructive adolescent behavior. The proven curriculum addresses the most difficult problems facing adolescents, such as alcohol and drug use, criminal behavior, domestic violence, family conflict, gang involvement, out-of-control behaviors, poor school attendance/performance, running away, sexually acting out (sexting), social media, video game addiction, and suicidal threats/attempts.

Parents who complete all the classes often report experiencing: a strengthened family unit, improved parent/child relationship, improved school attendance/performance, enhanced coping skills, increased parental involvement, teen alcohol and drug use prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, reduced violence, and reduced gang involvement.

**In 2021, 26 parents graduated from The Parent Project. Since October 2018, 133 participants have graduated from the program.**



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## The Women's Board to the Summit County Juvenile Court

### Financial Support and Volunteer Services

The Women's Board to the Summit County Juvenile Court is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides vital financial support to court-involved families and volunteer services to the court's operation. Members focus most of their efforts on enhancing the conditions of confinement within the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center by funding structural improvement projects and delivering supportive programming to youth being held in secure confinement.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly curbed in-person Women's Board activities and fundraising efforts. Only the annual holiday live greens decorations sale went forward and yielded a \$1,200 profit. Additionally, private donations and dues totaling just under \$12,000 were received.

Throughout the year, the Women's Board sponsored monthly reward nights for well-behaved youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center, purchased holiday gifts for court-involved youth in residential placement facilities, provided funding to assist youth and families with food and clothing needs, and donated canned/boxed food and toiletries to the pantry operated by the Family Resource Center and Diversion Department.

**In 2021, the Women's Board to the Summit County Juvenile Court granted over \$3,000 to Summit County Juvenile Court. The funds were used to support virtual art classes, in-person gardening instructions, and special projects for youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center.**

# Summit County Juvenile Court

## 2021 Employees

Bruce Alexander  
 Rebecca Armstrong  
 Benjamin Asiedu  
 Vanessa Askew  
 Geoffrey Auerbach  
 Nicole Bachman  
 Joseph Baglieri  
 Kathleen Bailey  
 Kenzie Barclay  
 Tammy Barnes  
 Dalcynthia Barnett  
 Pamela Bennett  
 Katherine Bertsch  
 Madison Bettio  
 Robert Bickett  
 Jaime Blair  
 Lauren Blaylock  
 Tiffany Bollman  
 Christina Bollman  
 Jennifer Bond  
 Jonathan Booher  
 Debra Briggs  
 Welby Broaddus, Jr.  
 Shaerrice Bryant  
 Bryan Brice  
 Justin Burton  
 DeShayla Bush  
 Beth Cardina  
 Samuel Chambers  
 Andrew Chizmadia  
 Rollin Clayton  
 Daniel Cody  
 Jill Coleman  
 Renee Conlon  
 Daniel Cody  
 Jill Coleman  
 Renee Conlon  
 Carmen Crawford  
 Joseph Cregan  
 Amber Crowe  
 Jordon Cupps  
 London Dancy  
 Tiara Dancy  
 Felicia Daniels  
 Mark Davenport  
 William Davis  
 Lionel Davis  
 Heidi Day Hall  
 Stephanie DeLeo  
 Christopher Demko  
 Tyler Davenport  
 Thomas Dillingham  
 Latisha Dillon  
 Lisa DiSabato-Moore  
 Amanda Dodson  
 Alice Duey

Lisa Eagle  
 Erin Ehrhart  
 Natasha Ervin  
 Cheryl Evans  
 Chanin Faith  
 Holly Farah  
 Christopher Fergus  
 Tremain Fields  
 David Fish  
 Michael Fleming  
 Kevin Floyd  
 Dylan Fouse  
 Jazmyn Fowler  
 Kayla Fredey  
 Francine Freeman  
 Thomas Freeman  
 Alan Futo  
 Israel Garrett  
 Susan Gatts  
 Laura Geer  
 Melissa Gerney  
 Kevin Gladney  
 Katherine Good  
 Donald Guthrie  
 Leila Halay  
 Brett Hammond  
 Antonio Hammons  
 Kali Harper  
 Jasmine Harris  
 Adam Harris  
 Angela Hart  
 Sarah Harvan  
 Katherine Herman  
 Brandon Herston  
 Gregory Higgins  
 Latonya Hill  
 Kandy Hixson  
 Karen Holmes  
 Erica Hopkins  
 Deon Horn  
 David Horner  
 Chad Horstman  
 William Howard  
 Curtis Howard  
 Katherine Hullum  
 Nicole Huntsman  
 Thaddeous Ingol  
 Perry James  
 Michael Johnson  
 Bernard Johnson  
 Dominique Johnson  
 Demetria Johnson  
 Kenneth Jones  
 Andre Jones  
 Lisa Karas  
 Christine Kasper

Joseph Kernan  
 Anthony Kidd  
 Spencer Kuhns  
 Georgeta Kutuchief  
 Kandice Lacy  
 Tiana Lamb  
 Abbigail Larue  
 Brittany Lee  
 Jennifer Lewis  
 Zaire Lewis  
 Andrea Lisowski  
 Branden Livengood  
 Donald Lomax  
 Mary Lorenzo  
 Keith Luhring  
 Laura Lynd Robinson  
 Tillman Manuel, III  
 Dawne Marlowe  
 Mary Martin  
 Sharon Martin Ringer  
 Romey Martinez  
 Stacey Mathieu  
 Tonya May  
 Jalynn McCants  
 Robert McCarty  
 Douglas McDougal  
 Denise McGuckin  
 Daniel Meeks  
 Mary Ann Mendlik  
 Kandace Monroe  
 Leslie Morris  
 Lynda Mullins  
 Lora Mycoskie  
 Carmesha Neal  
 Jimmy Oliver  
 Ashley Peters  
 Zachary Pfeil  
 Terrie Pfeil  
 Lori Phillips  
 Andrew Poda  
 Jeffrie Pope  
 Milton Rankins  
 Joshua Richardson  
 Rhonda Riddle  
 Latina Ridgell  
 Asia Ritter  
 Angel Robinson  
 Rita Rochford  
 Napoleon Rodgers  
 Janie Rodkey  
 Lisa Rotondo  
 Sarah Roupe  
 Constance Sales  
 Derry Sanders, Jr.  
 Stephen Saxon  
 Jolynn Schaetzle

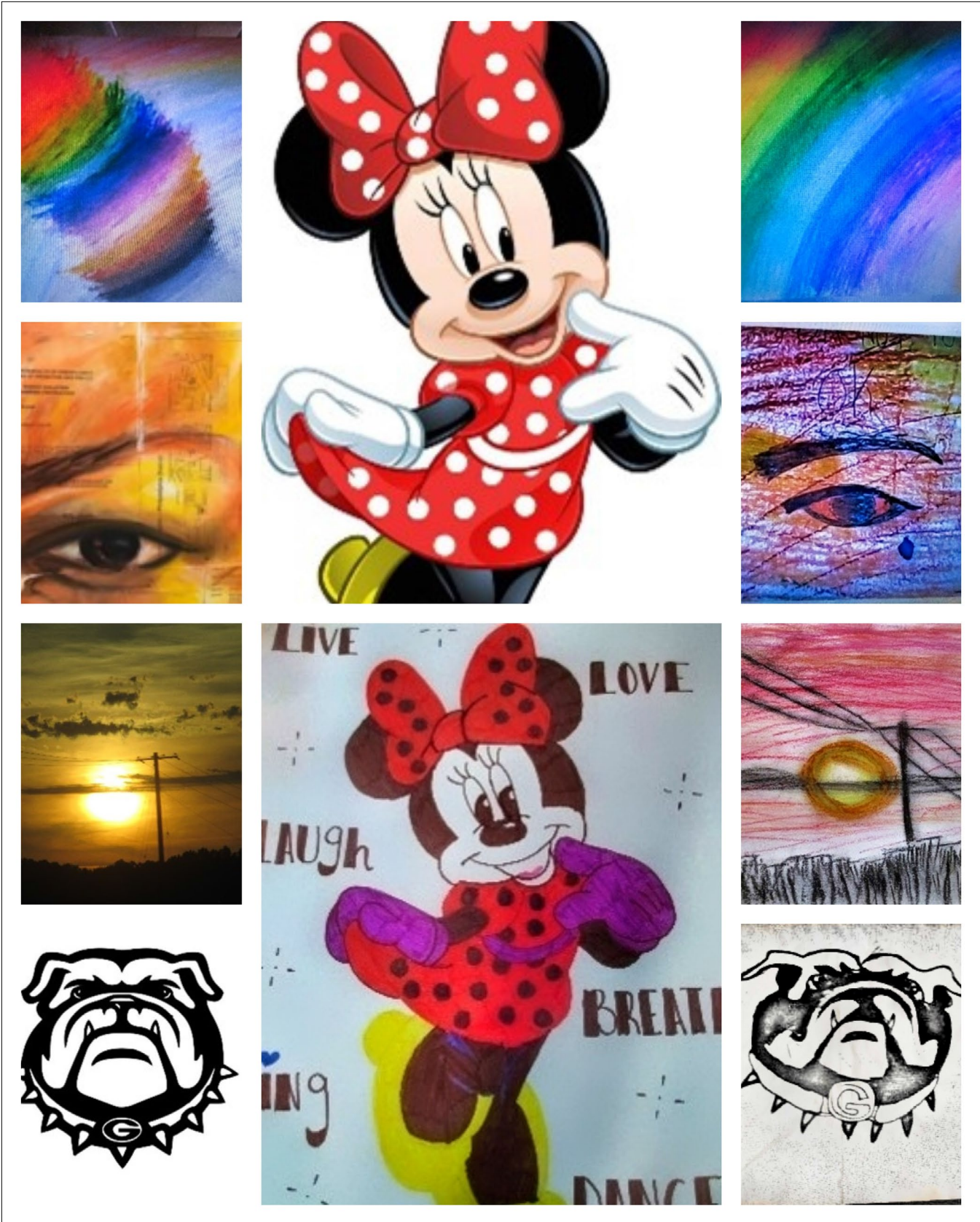
Lee Schaffer  
 Danielle Schantz  
 Todd Schaufler  
 Cory Schweigert  
 Kynasia Sherman  
 Trevor Shukys  
 Tiffany Sieg  
 Robert Singletary  
 Renee Sipe  
 Annie Skapin  
 Amber Slaughter  
 Thomas Smith  
 Alisha Smith  
 Clint Spencer  
 Tamara Stiles  
 Danielle Stoll  
 Christopher Strong  
 Cody Taylor  
 Adam Testa  
 Sarah Testa  
 Barbara Trone  
 Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio  
 Woody Tyrrell  
 Triston Smead  
 Mariah Uhl  
 Kathryn Vanhorn  
 Heather Vincent  
 William Vitarella Crowe, II  
 Fred Wagner  
 Rashara Walker  
 James Warner, II  
 Jordynn Watkins  
 Emanie Wheeler  
 Justin Whitfield  
 Krystal Whitted  
 Tracy Williams  
 Kym Williams  
 Timothy Williams  
 Jasmyne Wilson  
 Eddie Winstead  
 Cara Wolfgram Evans  
 Joshua Young  
 Joan Zito

*The list above features full-time and part-time staff members employed by Summit County Juvenile Court at a point in time throughout the 2021 calendar year.*



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*





Community Art Instructor Patty Jaconetta Groening used artwork created by professional artists to inspire youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center to create the masterpieces featured above. For easy viewing, compare images by browsing from left to right, top to bottom.







*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

The **2021 Annual Report** is a publication of Summit County Juvenile Court, located at 650 Dan Street, Akron, Ohio 44310.

**Vision Statement**

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

For more information about the topics covered in this report, call 330-643-2904.

**[juvenilecourt.summitoh.net](http://juvenilecourt.summitoh.net)**