

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Finding the Silver Lining

Summit County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division



Leadership

Linda Tucci Teodosio
Judge

Robert McCarty
Chief Magistrate

Katherine Bertsch
Jaime Blair
Daniel Cody
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



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Resilience
2020: The year of COVID-19.



Finding the Silver Lining

A message from Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



There is no doubt that 2020 has been a year like no other. When the governor ordered the shutdown of our state in March of 2020, the Courts were among those essential services that had to continue to do business. Summit County Juvenile Court was no exception.

The staff quickly pivoted to finding alternative ways to provide access to justice to the children and families in Summit County. In person hearings were abandoned for a period of time and hearings by phone and Zoom became the order of the day. New restrictions, including health screening forms, the taking of temperatures upon entry to the courthouse and limiting the number of individuals permitted in the courtrooms became standard practice. We followed the directives of the State of Ohio and were greatly aided by Summit County Public Health to do what was necessary to continue to do our important work; while, at the same time, keeping staff and the public safe.

While the past year was very trying, there were some silver linings:

- We learned that many of our Court procedures can be done effectively virtually. This eliminates the need for parents to take a day off work to attend a brief Court hearing.
- We learned that with remote hearings, parties are better able to participate, especially if they live out of state, out of town or have transportation challenges. Attendance at hearings improved when people were able to join hearings from wherever they were.
- Hearings were conducted in a timely fashion. Because people did not have to battle traffic or find a place to park, almost all hearings occurred on time.
- Court staff members were able to stay in close contact with children and families as all became more comfortable with technology.
- The Court was able to upgrade its technology due to CARES Act funding and grants from the Supreme Court of Ohio.

While 2021 will certainly see an increase in in-person proceedings, the lessons learned from 2020 will result in more flexibility to litigants in our Court. The important functions that we serve of providing access to justice and services for children and families will continue to be enhanced by our experiences of 2020.

Linda Tucci Teodosio



Responding to COVID-19

Timeline: March through December 2020



In early **March 2020**, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio led Summit County Juvenile Court through the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing a wide-array of policies and procedures to protect the health and safety of all who come into contact with the Summit County juvenile justice system.

In **April 2020**, Summit County Juvenile Court published an article titled, “Safeguards and Innovative Programming Solutions Amid COVID-19 Pandemic Evolve into Sustainable Practices” on JDAIconnect, a virtual destination, created by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, for juvenile justice reformers to talk, find resources and learn. The article touted the efforts put forth by the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center, under the direction of Judge Teodosio, to protect the health and safety of youth being held in juvenile detention centers.



In **May 2020**, Summit County Juvenile Court employees were assigned to the Summit County Division of COVID-19 Response. The unit was created by Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Council as a way to provide relief to government offices and public service agencies across the county.

Participating employees were asked to clean and sanitize central locations in county government buildings, oversee temperature-taking stations and perform essential job responsibilities as needed.



Summit County Juvenile Court employees Dawne Marlowe and Kathy Hullum fighting the spread of COVID-19... in style!



In **June 2020**, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio publicly expressed her gratitude to the essential workers within the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center by displaying, “Heroes Work Here!” yard signs across the court campus. The signs led to an out pour of support from citizens, community stakeholders and colleagues.



In **July 2020**, a drive-thru graduation ceremony was held in the Summit County Juvenile Court parking lot to recognize the first class of virtual participants to complete The Parent Project, a free, evidence-based 10 session class that helps parents acquire the tools needed to change destructive adolescent behavior.

In **August 2020**, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio entered into a one-year service contract with AT&T for the purpose of powering 30 iPhone 7s. The iPhones were distributed to court-involved youth who were required to be in steady communication with court workers, but did not have access to a smart phone of their own.

The iPhones provided youth with the ability to talk, text and video conference with their assigned court workers; as well as, remotely participate in court hearings, educational programming, group therapy sessions and more.

In **September 2020**, personal protective equipment was donated to the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center by Bondage Breakers, Inc., a local non-profit organization that provides services and training to citizens reentering the community and families affected by incarceration.

In **October 2020**, Summit County Juvenile Court began facilitating Human Trafficking 101 speaker presentations online. The virtual presentation series complimented the court's expanding list of programming and services being administered online.



Meeting Owl Pros

In **November 2020**, Summit County Juvenile Court enhanced its video conferencing technology by installing Meeting Owl Pros and mounted television screens inside courtrooms throughout the building. Meeting Owl Pros provide a frictionless video conferencing experience between those who appear for court hearings in-person and those who participate remotely. Grant funding to support this remote tech upgrade was awarded to Summit County Juvenile Court by the Supreme Court of Ohio.



Summit County Juvenile Court Assistant Court Administrator Curtis Howard congratulating graduates of The Parent Project.



In **December 2020**, Summit County Juvenile Court announced that e-Filing and text notification systems were on track to be implemented in 2021. Both modernization efforts will be funded through the use of grant dollars administered by the Supreme Court of Ohio.



Financial Statement

County, State and Federal Funding



County Funding

General Office/Judicial	\$2,492,911
Probation/Administration	\$1,950,170
Summit County Juvenile Detention Center	\$3,296,783
Total	\$7,739,864

State & Federal Grant Funding

RECLAIM Ohio	\$5,849,626
Title IV-E	\$232,334
Title XX/TANF Job Re-entry	\$115,000
Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice	\$334,000
Victims of Crime	\$196,393
Victims of Human Trafficking	\$269,358
National School Lunch Program	\$49,515
Title XX Guardian ad Litem	\$331,000
TANF XX Family Resource Center	\$621,000
State Victims Assistance	\$3,286
Supreme Court Technology Funds	\$123,116
CASA Volunteer Board	\$83,214
Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy	\$120,000
Summit County ADM Detention MH Services	\$245,346
Casey Foundation JDAI	\$2,684
Home Choice	\$2,110
National CASA	\$55,448
Total	\$8,633,430

Expenditures

Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$11,972,225
Contract Services	\$2,180,437
Other	\$2,220,632
Total	\$16,373,294

Contract Service Providers

Funded by State and Federal Funding



Electronic Monitoring

Oriana House \$115,000

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 \$100,000

Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment

Child Guidance & Family Solutions \$140,000

Drug/Alcohol Assessment Services

Community Health Center \$27,000

Mentoring

Akron U.M.A.D.A.O.P. \$10,000

Akron Area Y.M.C.A. \$25,000

RAHAB Ministries \$25,000

Young Scholars Mentoring Center \$25,000

Competency Evaluations

Lighthouse Family Center \$15,000

Summit Psychological Associates \$15,000

Community Service & Restitution Program

Funds to Victims \$50,000

Long-Term Out of Home Placement

Various Placement Agencies \$300,000

Diversion Programming

Police Departments and Summit Co. Sheriff's Office \$210,000

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

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program

Village Network \$165,000

Youth & Family Counseling

Greenleaf Family Center \$55,000

Grant Funding

Creating, Maintaining and Expanding Court Programming

Federal Title XX/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Funding

CASA/GAL Child Advocate Team	\$391,000
Jobs Re-entry Program	\$115,000
Family Resource Center	\$664,000
Restore Court	\$263,273



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

Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Specialized Docket Funding

Crossroads, Family Reunification through Recovery Court and Restore Court	\$120,000
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*The specialized dockets above have been certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

*Grants administered by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services under Ohio House Bill 483.

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

Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Program	\$334,000
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*Grants administered in collaboration with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board.

VOCA/SVAA Grants for Advocates

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	\$132,799.67
State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA)	\$3,286



*The grants above were awarded to the Summit County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program. See page 19 for additional CASA/GAL funding sources.

*Grants administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Supreme Court of Ohio Grants

Tech Grant	\$82,950
Remote Technology Grant	\$40,166.39
Court Improvement Program Grant	\$21,500
Multidisciplinary Legal Representation	\$60,000



*Grants administered by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

“Grant funding committed to the court for special programming/projects in 2020 totaled, \$2,227,975. 31 full-time and part-time court positions and several positions/programs for partnering community service providers are supported by these funding streams.”

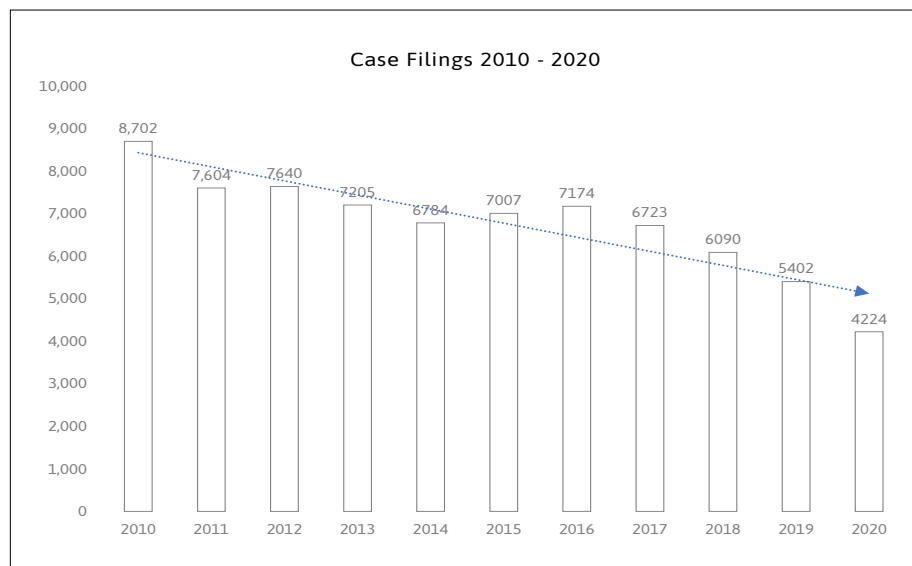
Woody Tyrrell, Grants Administrator
Summit County Juvenile Court



Summit County Juvenile Court Clerk's Office

Case Filings, Data Trends and Fund Collections

Case Types	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Delinquency	3601	3139	3064	2682	2591	2700	2687	2232	1626	1429	925
Traffic	2016	1709	1549	1625	1458	1442	1441	1591	1292	1207	1142
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	915	858	805	832	843	915	1062	1022	1289	1030	880
Failure to Send	526	464	420	492	431	607	532	277	102	123	52
Unruly	549	388	401	283	259	253	257	244	349	287	182
Unofficial	695	625	902	776	703	664	655	884	1016	503	390
Truancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	439	557
Legal Custody	261	254	312	293	288	272	343	299	278	251	6
Grandparent	103	115	123	165	148	88	129	127	85	98	65
Permanent Surrender	9	9	14	14	10	11	13	9	7	4	4
Contributing ^{*Adult}	17	18	17	13	19	15	12	10	13	7	9
Protection Order	10	25	33	30	34	40	43	28	33	24	12
Total	8702	7604	7640	7205	6784	7007	7174	6723	6090	5402	4224



From 2010 through 2020, Summit County Juvenile Court has experienced a 51% decrease in case filings.

“In 2020, the Summit County Juvenile Court Clerk’s Office collected \$121,465.54 in court costs, fees, fines and more.”

Stacey Mathieu, Chief Deputy Clerk
Summit County Juvenile Court



Serving Court-Involved Youth

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 the juvenile court facility. 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** (food, school supplies 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. Food and school supply collections are distributed by the Family Resource Center to families and youth in need. Toys are gifted to abused and neglected children being serviced by the CASA/GAL Program of Summit County.

In 2020, 127 community service hours were ordered to be completed and \$400 was collected in support of special projects.

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 are able to 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 2020, 24 youth completed 811 hours of restitution.

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

In 2020, 327 youth received a disposition to the SAFTE program through diversion and non-diversionary tracks. 120 of the youth were female and 207 were male.

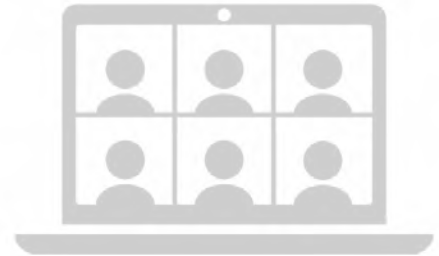
2020 Interpreters	
Nepali	29
Spanish	16
American Sign Language	4
Arabic	4
Swahili	3
Pashto	2
Karen	2
K'iche'	2
Vietnamese	1
Dari	1

In 2020, Summit County Juvenile Court coordinated 64 interpreter assignments at a cost of \$13,611.70.



2020 Mediations	
Full Resolution	49
Partial Resolution	22
No Resolution	26
No Show	3
Not Specified/Not Billed	4
Canceled by Parties/Mediators	5
Canceled Due to COVID-19	6

In 2020, Summit County Juvenile Court coordinated 115 mediation sessions at a cost of \$10,962.



Required by House Bill 410 on Habitual Truancy	
Number of children placed in alternatives to adjudication under division (G) of Section 2151.27 of the Ohio Revised Code.	557
The number of children who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication.	154
The number of children who failed to complete alternatives to adjudication and were adjudicated unruly.	9

Summit County Juvenile Detention Center

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Population

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 and has a total capacity to serve up to 100 youth at any given time.

Throughout the pandemic, the facility strived to ensure appropriate measures were in place to protect the health and wellbeing of our staff and the juveniles in our care.

Due to restrictions put in place in regard to persons who were permitted to enter the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center, staff members took advantage of existing technology; more specifically, Zoom. Video conferencing technology allowed juveniles to maintain close contact with their families, connecting face-to-face, on a regular basis. The Summit County Juvenile Detention Center also moved all programming, including educational services, to remote learning. Services provided to the juvenile detention center by community agencies were also administered online, including art, ministry and yoga classes.

The Summit County Juvenile Detention Center continues to maintain the high standards set forth by the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the American Correctional Association (ACA). The facility has applied for its third recertification and will undergo the same comprehensive examination of the detention center policies and operations to receive recertification in March 2021.

Mental health remains an important facet of the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center. Licensed professionals provide individual and group counseling to all the juveniles in the facility. In addition, medical staff who are contracted through Akron Children’s Hospital are available on a daily basis to respond to any medical concerns and to monitor and provide prescribed medication.

Secure Admissions by Gender		
Male	198	77%
Female	60	23%
Total	258	100%

*Average Daily Population, 16

Secure Admissions by Race/Ethnicity		
African American	150	58%
Hispanic/Latino	9	3%
White	79	31%
Other	20	8%
Total	258	100%



The year 2020 afforded us the opportunity to provide more methods for youth to connect with their families and the community, via Zoom, and other video conferencing technologies. Detention staff will continue to offer these types of programs long after the pandemic has concluded, but look forward to the time when in-person learning and visitation can resume as that is the most beneficial form of connecting for the families and juveniles the court serves.

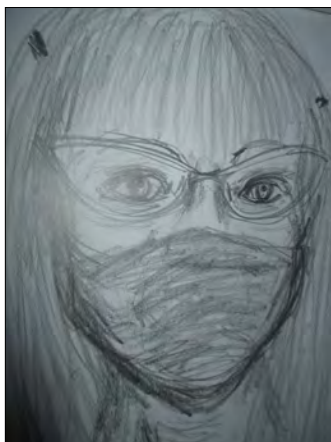
Online Art Classes Lead to COVID-19 Influenced Masked Self-Portraits

In an effort to adhere to social distancing recommendations and continue regularly scheduled programming, online art classes were offered to youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center.

The classes were virtually facilitated by community art instructor Patty Jaconetta Groening. Groening has worked as a contracted art instructor at the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center since October 2017.

Through this instruction, students were introduced to the concept of drawing COVID-19 influenced "Masked Self-Portraits" of themselves and one another.

"Students would take turns sitting in front of the computer camera for me to draw them, and vice versa," said Groening. "The experience resonated across groups and sessions for weeks on end. I truly believe that this interest has developed in response to our virtual engagement."



**Masked Self-Portrait by
Patty Jaconetta Groening**

"Maintaining a connection to the community and encouraging artistic self-expression is key," added Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

Trauma-Informed Yoga Classes Resume, Prison Yoga Project

During the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio approved the restart of trauma-informed yoga classes at the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center.

The yoga classes were facilitated by the Prison Yoga Project, an organization that supports incarcerated people with trauma-informed yoga and mindfulness practices to promote rehabilitation, reduce recidivism and improve public safety.

"Trauma-informed yoga offers a more mindful approach," said Prison Yoga Project Youth Facilitator Ashlee Farkas. "Instead of aesthetics and alignment, we focus more on how our bodies breathe and feel in different postures."

The practice of trauma-informed yoga also involves having the mats spatially placed in a circle to support a sense of community and safety. To avoid a sense of hierarchy, the facilitator does not roam the room throughout the class to assist individuals with physical adjustments.

For more information visit, prisonyoga.org.



**Ashlee Farkas
Youth Facilitator**



*Published in the SCJC Newsletter, The Court Reporter, June 2020.

Problem Solving Courts & Initiatives

Expanding the Role of the Court Process

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

In 2020, 5 youth successfully graduated from the Crossroads specialized docket; while, 29 youth and families were served through the Crossroads probation unit.

Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC) is a specialized docket program 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 the home, and to address substance misuse and other family challenges in an effort to create a healthy, stable home environment that allows the family to permanently reunify. A comprehensive system of services is utilized through partnership with Summit County Children Services and several local mental health, substance abuse treatment and social service provider agencies to achieve program goals. Weekly treatment team and review hearings are held to ensure participant engagement in services, program compliance and advancement toward rehabilitation and reunification with their children.*

In 2020, 14 parents successfully graduated from Family Reunification through Recovery Court and 9 families were reunified.

Restore Court is a specialized docket program 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 or a traditional probation track of the program.

Both Safe Harbor and traditional track empower youth 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.*

In 2020, 33 youth and families were served through the Restore Court specialized docket. 16 youth were found to be victims of human trafficking and 17 youth were found to be at high risk for human trafficking.

Note: A single asterisk (*) indicates a Supreme Court of Ohio Certified Specialized Docket.

Summit County Juvenile Court Celebrates FRRC Graduate, Observes National Recovery Month

Most people in recovery have a date that is forever burned into their memory: a day that reminds them of when they were at their lowest.

For Vanessa (name has been changed to protect the program participants privacy), that day was Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

“That was the day that I was arrested on drug charges, and my daughters were removed from my home,” said Vanessa. “I will never forget the moment when my oldest daughter said, ‘Oh, no, Mommy! Not again!’”

Prior to her October 2016 arrest, Vanessa struggled with a substance use disorder and resorted to criminal activity to support her addiction. She was arrested numerous times and was in and out of treatment programs, but nothing ever changed.

“I desperately wanted the cycle to end, and I equally wanted to be reunited with my girls,” added Vanessa. “With that in mind, my lawyer encouraged me to participate in the Family Reunification through Recovery Court.”

The Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC) is a creative, and effective specialized court docket that addresses substance misuse and other family challenges for the purpose of family reunification.

The family drug court was launched in 2013 by Summit County Juvenile Court, in partnership with Summit County Children Services.

“Drug courts emphasize the coordination of substance misuse treatment and case management services with child protective services,” said Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. “In addition, participants must attend frequent status hearings in court during which the judge reviews their progress and may administer sanctions for infractions or rewards for accomplishments. The ultimate reward being permanent family reunification!”

Through the FRRC, Vanessa met regularly with a case manager and received rigorous treatment

and counseling. With the help from the court team, in partnership with community-based treatment providers, she began to put her life back together.

In March 2018, Vanessa graduated from the FRRC program. Four months later, she achieved one year of sobriety, and in November of the same year she was permanently reunified with her daughters.

Today, Vanessa is three years sober! She is happy, healthy, and studying human development and family studies at Kent State University.

“I am sharing my story because I want to show other women that recovery and reunification is possible,” said Vanessa. “In order to keep what I have; I have to share it with others!”

“As you can see, family drug courts, like the Family Reunification through Recovery Court, lead people out of the justice system and into long-term recovery,” added Judge Teodosio.

Vanessa, and daughters, currently reside in West Akron.

For more information on the services being offered at Summit County Juvenile Court call 330-643-4547 or visit juvenilecourt.summitoh.net.

Citizens who are struggling with addiction are encouraged to call the Summit County ADM Addiction Helpline at 330-940-1133 or visit admboard.org.



Vanessa's treasured "Clean & Serene" keytag.



*Published in the SCJC Newsletter, The Court Reporter, September 2020.



Innovative Partnerships & Practices

Modernizing to Meet the Needs of the Community

Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) is funding provided by the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services that allows the court to offer treatment (Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and support services (mentoring, parent advocacy, pro-social activities, respite care, tutoring, etc.) to approximately 50 felony juvenile offenders 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.

In 2020, the Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice grant supported two community-based programs that provided intensive home-based therapeutic programs. As a result, 36 families engaged in intensive home-based therapy.

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

In 2020, 27 of 31 parents graduated from The Parenting Project program.



Summit County Juvenile Court employees Felicia Daniels and Natasha Ervin honoring graduates of The Parent Project.

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 components of the Dually Involved Youth Initiative are enhanced concentration on family and youth engagement in the case planning process and increased levels of collaboration and communication among area youth-serving agencies and organizations.

In 2020, 204 referrals were made to the Dually Involved Youth Initiative.

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, is a juvenile justice reform model that has proven to be effective in safely and substantially 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 2020, 44 youth were released from detention and supervised through the Detention Alternative Release Program (DARP). Of the 44 youth served, 35 were youth of color and 9 were white.

Family Resource Center (FRC) specializes in serving Summit County youth experiencing academic difficulties, behavioral problems, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, parenting difficulties and truancy. Family Resource Center case managers closely assess the needs of youth and families, develop a service plan, connect clients with appropriate community resources and provide ongoing monitoring and assistance.

In 2020, the Family Resource Center was successful in engaging 519 clients. 80% of Family Resource Center clients completed case plan goals and diversion requirements.

*The information above represents data collected by the Family Resource Center throughout the 2020 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020).
*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.



Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio accepting the 2020 Bishop William M. Cosgrove Justice Award from the Catholic Commission of Summit County.



Probation Programs

Positive Development, Rehabilitation & Community Safety

New Paths provides specialized intervention services; as well as, probation supervision for juvenile offenders who have been diagnosed with a cognitive delay or developmental disability. This population of court-involved youth are guided through the juvenile justice system by a dedicated court officer that has been trained to effectively serve youth with developmental deficits. In addition to serving as the juvenile's primary court liaison, New Paths court officers also work to connect participants to a network of community-based treatment and service providers. To ensure overall program compliance, participants and family members may be required to appear periodically before a magistrate for reviews.

In 2020, 19 youth and families were served through the New Paths probation unit.

Offender Specific Unit is assigned to any youth referred to the court for a sexual offense. Court officers provide pre-trial services, such as: case management, safety planning and service recommendations. Once adjudicated, youth may be placed on an intensive level of probation. In addition to following the rules and conditions of probation, juveniles assigned to this probation track may be court ordered to undergo sex offender specific assessments and evaluations, participate in evidence-based therapeutic treatment practices (individual and family), attend weekly rehabilitative group counseling sessions, complete assigned amends projects, improve social skills, enhance their understanding of empathy and more. Parental/family participation is required.

In 2020, 23 youth were referred to the Offender Specific Unit.

Traditional Probation is a probation service that allows adjudicated, juvenile offenders to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation officer. Probation officers employ evidence-based practices, including cognitive behavioral therapy interventions and motivational interviewing techniques that aim at eliminating behavioral problems and positive youth development.

In 2020, the Probation Department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of 357 cases. Throughout the year, 2 youth were committed/revoked to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, 8 cases were transferred through the bind-over process to the General Division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court and 95 cases were successfully terminated.

Advocates and Volunteers

Programs Powered by Community Volunteers

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program of Summit County exists to recruit, train and support community volunteers who are committed to advocating for the best interests of abused, neglected and dependent children involved in the juvenile justice system in Summit County.

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

The CASA/GAL Program of Summit County is funded by Summit County Juvenile Court with assistance from the CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization which exists to promote the program and to support volunteers in partnership with the court. In addition to funding allocations from the National CASA Association, the CASA/GAL Program of Summit County is backed by Victims of Crime Act and State Victims Assistance Act (VOCA/SVAA) grants administered through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The program 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 2020, 800 children were served by 189 Summit County CASA Volunteers.

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 a majority 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.

One of the most impactful programs supported by the Women's Board is titled, *Project: Greenhouse*. The program educates youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center on gardening and landscaping methods for the purpose of encouraging nurturing, positivity and skill building. Women's Board funds have been used to build raised garden beds and a four-season greenhouse in open-air areas within the detention center where youth have access under supervision to plant, help grow and harvest fruits, vegetables and flowers.

The Women's Board also helps fund weekly art classes and yoga sessions for youth in detention, provides two very special seasonal meals around the holidays, exit bags filled with personal hygiene products for each youth upon release and visits detention every Wednesday evening throughout the year to offer food and games to youth being rewarded for good behavior and cooperation. Additionally, members of the Women's Board also volunteer their time assisting with the functions of the Summit County Juvenile Court, Traffic Docket.



Summer vegetables harvested from the gardens at Summit County Juvenile Court.



Summit County Juvenile Court

2020 Employees

**The list below features full-time and part-time staff members who were employed by SCJC at some point in time throughout the 2020 calendar year.*

Bruce Alexander	Christopher Fergus	Getta Kutuchief	Robert Singletary
Rebecca Armstrong	Tremain Fields	Kandice Lacy	Annie Skapin
Benjamin Asiedu	David Fish	Jennifer Lewis	Amber Slaughter
Nicole Bachman	Michael Fleming	Zaire Lewis	Alisha Smith
Joseph Baglieri	Kevin Floyd	Andrea Lishowski	Deseria Smith
Kenzie Barclay	Brian Fogle	Donald Lomax	Thomas Smith
Tammy Barnes	Dylan Fouse	Mary Lorenzo	Clint Spencer
Dalcynthia Barnett	Jazmyn Fowler	Keith Luhring	Tamara Stiles
Russell Belle	Francine Freeman	Laura Lynd Robinson	Tameaka Taylor
Pamela Bennett	Thomas Freeman	Tillman Manuel III	Adam Testa
Sarah Benson	Alan Futo	Dawne Marlowe	Sarah Testa
Kathy Bertsch	Israel Garrett	Mary Martin	Jody Tolley
Robert Bickett	Susan Gatts	Sharon Martin Ringer	Steven Toth
Jaime Blair	Laura Geer	Romey Martinez	Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Christina Bollman	Melissa Gerney	Stacey Mathieu	Woody Tyrrell
Jennifer Bond	Kevin Gladney	Tonya May	Triston Tyrrell Smead
Jonathan Booher	Katherine Good	Robert McCarty	Mariah Uhl
Welby Broaddus, Jr.	Donald Guthrie	Douglas McDougal	Don Ursetti
Bryan Bryce	Leila Halay	Denise McGuckin	Kathryn Vanhorn
Justin Burton	Brett Hammond	Mary Ann Mendlik	William Vitarella Crowe, III
DeShayla Bush	Adam Harris	Kandace Monroe	Fred Wagner
Alexander Byard	Jasmine Harris	Leslie Morris	Rashara Walker
Beth Cardina	Angela Hart	Lynda Mullins	J'Mon Wells
Rose Carlyon	Sarah Harvan	Lora Mycoskie	Emanie Wheeler
Andrew Chizmadia	Jibreel Hazly	Jimmy Oliver	Justin Whitfield
Rollin Clayton	Stacy Heflin	Kobe Oppong	Krystal Whitted
Daniel Cody	Katherine Herman	Terrie Pfeil	Timothy Williams
Jill Coleman	Gregory Higgins	Zachary Pfeil	Tracy Williams
Renee Conlon	Darrell Hill	Lori Phillips	Jasmyne Wilson
Laconia Crandall	Latonya Hill	Andrew Poda	Eddie Winstead
Joseph Cregan	Kandy Hixson	Jeffrie Pope	Kara Workman
Kevin Cummings	Rochelle Hodoh McLane	Milton Rankins	Joshua Young
Jordan Cupps	Chennell Holley	Janota Ray	Joan Zito
John Dalessandro	Karen Holmes	Rhonda Riddle	
Felicia Daniels	Deon Horn	Latina Ridgell	
Mark Davenport	David Horner	Angel Robinson	
William Davis	Chad Horstman	Rita Rochford	
Heidi Day Hall	Curtis Howard	Janie Rodkey	
Stephanie DeLeo	Katherine Hullum	Lisa Rotondo	
Thomas Dillingham	Nicole Huntsman	Sally Roupe	
Lisa Disabato-Moore	Thaddeus Ingol	Constance Sales	
Amanda Dodson	Perry James	Stephen Saxon	
Carmen Dorman	Demetria Johnson	Jolynn Schaetzle	
Lisa Eagle	Michael Johnson	Lee Ann Schaffer	
Erin Erhart	Kenneth Jones	Todd Schaufler	
Natasha Ervin	Lisa Karas	Cory Schweigert	
Cheryl Evans	Christine Kasper	Kynasia Sherman	
Chanin Faith	Joseph Kernan	Tiffany Sieg	
Holly Farah	Byron King	Cheryl Simpson	





The **2020 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, 330-643-2936.

juvenilecourt.summitoh.net

