
THE 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION
LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO, JUDGE



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2011 Annual Report of the Summit County Juvenile Court



Turning lives around one child at a time.

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

Summit County Juvenile Court Vision Statement

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

A Message From Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



Do the right thing.

It is a simple phrase, one that we've heard all of our lives, yet, from a Juvenile Court perspective, it takes on a multi-faceted definition. On its very face, "do the right thing" is almost ironic since the Juvenile Court is charged with addressing instances when youth have done the exact opposite. But it's more than that.

The Court must do the right thing for the community. The Court must continue to employ a well-trained, well-motivated and professional staff to handle the myriad of functions of the Court, particularly the security of the Detention Center.

The Court must do the right thing for the victims of crime. With the Court's restitution program, its Child Responsibility Program, its mediation program and its Victim Impact Panels, the Court offers these vital services to assure that victims are made whole.

And, yes, the Court must do the right thing for the youth who are in the juvenile justice system. The Court must hold these youth accountable for their actions and issue timely and substantive dispositions. But the Court must also be held accountable for providing the proper rehabilitation tools to direct their attention and activity away from irresponsible and criminal acts.

The Court must do the right thing by remaining passionate about pursuing innovative programming to advance the ultimate goal of equipping our Court-involved youth with the methods to re-enter the community.

In the pages of this annual report, I hope you will see that the Court has worked hard to meet those goals, to be a good community partner, to be vigilant in securing our Detention Center and diligent in the rehabilitation of the youth who are there, to be pro-active and progressive in introducing our staff, our youth, their families and their community to the kind of programming that will have tangible and lasting effect.

In other words, to do the right thing.

Linda Tucci Teodosio
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

Magistrates



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



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



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



Daniel Cody: Magistrate Cody is responsible for the Court's Traffic Court docket.



Thomas Freeman: Magistrate Freeman is responsible for a delinquency docket. He oversees the Court's Developmental Disabilities docket, New Paths.

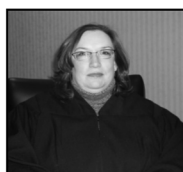


Kristin Maxwell: Magistrate Maxwell has a delinquency docket. Magistrate Maxwell also serves as the Crossroads Magistrate.

Magistrates



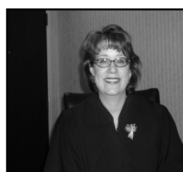
Robert McCarty: Magistrate McCarty is overseeing the accreditation process for the Court. He convenes and presides over the meetings of the Accreditation Committee and writes policies for the Court and Detention. Additionally, Magistrate McCarty deals with all of the records requests that come to the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



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



Mary Ann Mendlik: Magistrate Mendlik was responsible for the Court's Traffic Court docket. She also heard delinquency cases. After the retirement of James Whited, Magistrate McGuckin assumed his dependency, neglect and abuse docket.



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



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



James Whited: Magistrate Whited heard a full docket of dependency, neglect and abuse cases as well as private legal custody cases. Magistrate Whited also oversaw the Court's Mediation Program. Magistrate Whited retired in late 2011.

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator

*The 2011 Summit County Juvenile court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled **\$15,510,023***

General Office/Judicial	\$3,180,693	Reclaim Ohio	\$4,883,562	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$8,545,798
Probation/Administration	2,537,532	Title IV-E	1,079,315	Contract Service	2,749,000
Detention Center	<u>2,825,300</u>	Title XX/PRC	340,000	Other	<u>4,215,225</u>
Total County funding:	\$8,543,525	Other	<u>663,621</u>	Total Expenditures:	\$15,510,023
		Total State/Federal Grant funding:	\$6,966,498		

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

<u>SERVICE PROVIDER</u>	<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
Day Treatment	
East Akron Community House	275,000.00
Akron UMADAOP	80,000.00
Electronic Monitoring	
Oriana House, Inc.	60,000.00
Educational Services	80,000.00
Out of Home Placement	
Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter	137,750.00
Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family And Children First Council/Summit County Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement	100,000.00
Short Term out of home placement	
Shelter Care Youth Assessment	236,300.00
Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT)	
Child Guidance & Family Solutions	159,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services	
Community Health Center	32,000.00
Summit County Health District	55,346.00
Mentoring	
CYO and Community Services	25,000.00
Akron UMADAOP	17,000.00
Akron Area YMCA	19,500.00
True North Ministries	2,500.00
Mental Health Counseling	
Child Guidance & Family Solutions	25,000.00
Competency Evaluations	
Summit Psychological Associates	15,000.00
Community Service/Restitution Program	
Funds to victims	50,000.00
Long Term out of Home Placement	
Various Placement Agencies	500,000.00
Diversion Programming	
Distributed in varying amounts to 12 Police Departments and Sheriff's Office	194,576.00
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program	
Village Network	132,000.00
Parent Advocates for Court Involved Youth	
Mental Health America of Summit County	6,000.00
Youth & Family Counseling	
Greenleaf Family Center	45,385.00

Additional 2011 Funding

Prepared by Grants Administrator Woody Tyrrell

In addition to the county's general fund and formula funding from state/federal sources that sustain its operation, the Court actively pursues additional revenue through local, state and federal agency grant funding. These funds are typically used to create, maintain or expand programs at the Court aimed at meeting our goal of assuring that each child entering the Court leaves with increased opportunity for success in school, work and the community. ***In 2011, grant funding committed to the court for special programming totaled \$1,089,018. A total of 19 full- and part-time court positions and several positions for community service providers are supported by these funding streams.*** The programs assisted by this funding are:

Intensive Probation Supervision, \$40,109: The Court's Probation Officers offer intense services and case management to high risk offenders. Most Intensive Probation cases are placed on a suspended commitment through the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). All participants are engaged in a minimum of 32 hours per week in structured activities. ***Funding is provided by Federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Funds and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.***

Juvenile Court Health Advocacy Program—HIV Prevention \$6,000: HIV/STD awareness classes were presented to more than 200 youth in detention each week in 2011. HIV/STD testing is offered in detention weekly and available evenings by appointment through the FRC. All testing is free, confidential, anonymous and conducted by certified Community Aids Network and PPNEO staff. ***Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Health and administered through the Summit County Health District.***

The Family Resource Center, \$340,000: Intensive case management is delivered to Court-referred, at-risk youth and their families at the Court and in the community. The FRC is also a resource for other youth and the community as a whole. It serves as a central point of referral for all services available throughout Summit County for youth and their families. More than 400 families were served in 2011. ***Funding is provided by Federal TANF/PRC funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Russell M. Pry, Executive.***

The Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Program, \$345,651.00: Intensive probation and case management services, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and/or cognitive behavioral therapy is delivered to youth who are at the greatest risk of commitment to Department of Youth Service institutions. Approximately 30 youth are served annually. ***Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the program is administered in collaboration with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board.***

Jobs Re-entry Program, \$125,000: provides intensive case management services to youth in the custody of the Ohio Department of Youth Services and after their release aimed at developing life and job skills, linking them to education and training opportunities, jobs, higher education, providing mentoring and generally helping to transition them successfully back into their families and the community. ***Funding is provided by the Department of Labor through the Workforce Investment Act and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Russell M. Pry, Executive.***

Disproportionate Minority Contact Diversion Program, \$103,232.00: Minority youth are diverted from official Court involvement through completing appropriate tasks set forth by a program dedicated Intake Officer and program Hearing Officer and agreed to by the youth and parent/guardian in an effort to reduce disproportionate minority contact in Summit County and prevent further, official and more serious court involvement in the future. Approximately 200 minority youth are served annually. ***Funding is provided by Federal Title II funds and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.***

CASA/GAL Program Funding for 2011 was provided by a variety of sources. ***Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, \$34,434 for operating costs and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA), \$3,286*** for supplies and technology were received through and administered by the ***State of Ohio Attorney General's Office***. CASA/GAL Program Training Coordinator, Jessica Lane Rowan, sought and received ***\$67,820*** funding for recruitment, training and general operational from ***various private foundations*** and ***National CASA***. The local ***Summit County CASA Volunteer Board*** contributed an additional ***\$57,990*** in operational grant funding bringing the total program external funding to ***\$129,096***.

Detention Services

Phil Lucco, Superintendant

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

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

Through a cooperative agreement and a collaborative effort with Akron Public Schools, all juveniles held in Detention attend school within the facility, and are taught by state certified teachers in math, science/health, language arts, history and reading. In 2011, a school counselor has been added to the teaching staff to help with youth re-entering their school systems and making sure that all school records follow the youth back to their schools. Judge Teodosio and Detention staff view education as a high priority and believe every juvenile held in the Detention facility should receive the best education possible. To aid in that goal, a new computer system, entitled PLATO, was installed to allow youth to work at their own pace and grade level. Now, juveniles can complete course work to receive credit and graduate from their school. Additional tutorial services are provided by Akron Public Schools through the Title I Program. Juveniles are encouraged to read daily as part of the 100 Book Challenge which is overseen by tutors. In addition, Detention staff provides daily structured programming in areas such as anger management, money management, completing job applications, character education, coping skills, decision-making and other areas. Physical recreation, non-denominational religious services and community-based agency programming are offered as well

In 2011:

- **1,866** juveniles were brought to Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility. Whenever a juvenile is brought to Detention they go through the Intake process which consists of reviewing all paperwork and having the Detention Risk Assessment completed to determine whether the juvenile should be held or released.
- **963** juveniles were held in the detention facility; 71% were males and 29% were females.
- **903** juveniles were released through the admissions process. Of the 903, **787** were released through the aforementioned admission process which consists of having the Detention Risk Assessment completed and the juvenile scoring below 23 points. **116** juveniles were Felony Released. Felony Releases occur when a juvenile is brought in on a lower level felony which does not involve the injury of a person and it is deemed that the juvenile is not a threat to his/her self or the community. These juveniles have a Court date scheduled within two days.
- The average daily population of the facility was 53.98.
- The average bed days in Detention were **12.64 days** (the average bed days represent the number of days a juvenile held in Detention spends in the facility from the time assigned to a unit until departure/release). There were 39 juveniles who had motions filed to have them bound over to the adult system. Of those 39, 9 youth had their case bound over on 11 cases. The Detention Facility continues to use the Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment device which provides information to allow staff make better decisions as to which juveniles should be to be held in Detention and which can be released.

Clerk's Office

Cathy Richardson Thomas, Chief Deputy Clerk

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

In 2011 the Clerk's office filed **6,688** new cases. The breakdown by type is as follows:

- ☐ Delinquency: **3,026**
- ☐ Unruly: **379**
- ☐ Traffic: **1,651**
- ☐ Adult: **487**
- ☐ Dependent/Neglected/Abused: **1,145**
Custody/Visitation/All Others *

In 2011, the Clerk's office collected a total of **\$258,162.87**. Of this amount, **\$9,077.00** was received for the payment of fines and costs in delinquency, unruly or adult cases; **\$80,415.00** was collected for traffic fines and costs, Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund and Indigent Defense Support Fund; **\$11,135.66** was collected for restitution; **\$149,085.21** was collected for computer and legal research, special fees, public defender, reparations rotary fund, county and clerk fees, indigent application fees, bond, credit card fees, sundries, attorney fee reimbursement and legal news; **\$8,450.00** was collected for the Alcohol Cessation Training (Project ACT), a Prohibition Diversion program and for the Staying Accident Free Through Education (SAFTE) Program, a driver intervention program.

*Numbers also include new permanent custody cases

Intake Department

Lynda Mullins, Supervisor

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

In 2011, the department received **3,998 referrals** that included **5,502** counts. This included **2,548** youth referred to Court dockets. The breakdown of the charges consisted of **777 felonies, 3,928 misdemeanors, and 796 status offenses.**

The Intake Department has collaborated with the Family Resource Center to overhaul the Such Is Life program. Our new venture, T.E.A.M.S (Teens Empowered through Accountability and Management Skills) is now taking referrals with a start date of January 11, 2012. The program was modified into just 4 weeks and allows for a youth to start within one week of the referral being made therefore completing the sanction in a shorter period of time while the offense is still fresh in their mind. This program is open to all court departments and may also be used as a sanction for diversion cases. T.E.A.M.S. will still be facilitated by Catholic Charities/Greenleaf with sessions held here at court.

Intake has seen a significant change in how cases are scheduled which is a direct result of JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative). Youth are less frequently held in detention but are being seen much more quickly with hearings scheduled right out of the release from detention. This does not allow for quite as much time to be devoted to a formal intake interview. With this in mind, the emphasis is still on identifying the most crucial needs of the child and family and then making referrals to meet those needs. This has resulted in an increase in referrals for Crossroads and New Paths programs since so many youth are presenting with mental health issues, substance abuse problems and/or developmental delays.

Probation Department

Curtis Howard, Chief Probation Officer

The Probation Department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of 816 cases in 2011, which included 465 new assignments and 351 cases that were carried over from 2010. These totals include Traditional and Intensive probation cases. The monthly average for new assignments was approximately 39 cases per month. The number of cases served 816, is less than the previous year of 895. In 2011, youth were maintained under court supervision for longer terms and engaged in a multitude community based services.

Probation cases are assigned based on geographic districts, allowing Probation Officers to establish and maintain rapport with clients, families, schools and agencies within a district. The average caseload for Probation Officers in 2011 was approximately 32 cases for each Probation Officer which is slightly less than the previous year. The Probation Department staff consists of 12 Probation Officers, two Probation Community Workers, three Case Managers, a Probation Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant and the Chief Probation Officer.

In 2011, the Probation Department assisted 123 victims to recover over \$20,000 in restitution that was paid directly to victims. Probationers also worked over 2,000 hours in community service in Summit County.

Of the 33 youth who were committed or revoked to the Ohio Department of Youth Services in the 2011 calendar year, only 15 were on Probation at the time they were committed, which is approximately 45% of the commitments and revocations. In 2011 the number cases transferred to the General Division of the Common Pleas Court decreased from 25 to 10. Of the 10 cases bound over 6 were on probation at the time were transferred over. Three hundred thirty eight (338) cases were successfully terminated from probation supervision in 2011.

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

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

JUDGE LINDA TEODOSIO COMPLETES GEORGETOWN FELLOWS PROGRAM

Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio was among an exclusive group of individuals from across the nation who were invited to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. in July to participate in a project sponsored by the university's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

The Center's Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders is an intensive, week-long course. Each of the participants was asked to formulate a Capstone Project. Outlines for each of the projects were submitted for review and approval. At the conclusion of the program, the participants were awarded an executive certificate, which Judge Teodosio received in October, and earned them inclusion in Center's Fellows Network. This network is comprised of over 200 alumni of the Certificate Program. Judge Teodosio is the first representative from Ohio to earn the certificate and the fellowship.



"I am honored to be included in such a diverse group of professionals who share a common goal of advancing the methods we use in administering juvenile justice," said Judge Teodosio, who added that her project is still in the formative stages and hopes to launch it at the Juvenile Court in the upcoming months.

The Fellows Network is designed to encourage the sharing of dialogue and expertise from its membership and hone leadership skills. Throughout the year, the Fellows can maintain contact with others in the network through a private interactive website and conference calls hosted by the Center.

In its letter to Judge Teodosio informing her that she successfully completed the course, it stated that the Fellows "also benefit from the Center's working relationship with many of the country's major juvenile justice reform initiatives, which puts the Center in a unique position to support system reform efforts spearheaded by the Fellows."

"This is a great opportunity to be part of a national forum. Not only will we hear what others in the juvenile justice system are doing to enhance the way they handle issues and develop programming, but we can share what we have done and plan to do in Summit County," said Judge Teodosio. "This broadens our scope and offers us the opportunity to learn creative and constructive ways to serve our youth and our community."

Offender Specific Unit **(Formerly Sex Offender Management Unit)**

Terry Walton, Felony Disposition Supervisor

Three full-time Probation Officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor comprise the Offender Specific Unit. This specialized probation unit supervises an average of 60 youth a month who have been charged with or adjudicated for a sexually aggressive offense as described in the Ohio Revised Code. In 2011, 36 youth were referred to this department, reflecting an increase of 2 youth from 2010. The average term of probation for this population is 18 to 20 months. These specialized Probation Officers serve a multidisciplinary role in that they supervise their youth from intake through termination of probation, including any placements that may occur.

These Probation Officers make face to face contacts with youth at home, school, office, community counseling appointments, and placement facilities. Using Evidence-Based Practices, this unit collaborates with Child Guidance and Family Solutions to provide community based treatment to their clients. In addition to co-facilitating two treatment groups each week, this unit also offers "Wise Guys" and "Smart Girls" as alternatives for less serious offenders. Teaching empathy and social skills remains a high priority in our treatment model. We work to attain this through assigned amends projects, counseling and community service work.

The Offender Specific Unit remains informed of new legislation that pertains to the youth we serve, such as House Bill No. 155 "Jessica Logan Law" which concerns the issue of school bullying. Any new changes in legislation will be incorporated into court programming.

Offender Specific Unit Probation Officers sit on several important committees within the county and state. They are members of The Supreme Court of Ohio's Roundtable which provides additional training on statewide issues. These collaborations provide the probation officers with the opportunity to discuss best practices in order to develop new services to successfully manage juvenile offenders in the community.

Crossroads and New Paths Probation Unit

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Program Supervisor

Summit County Juvenile Court offers two alternatives to a traditional probation approach that are specifically designed to serve families of children with special needs. The Crossroads Probation Program offers a diversionary option to youth who have coexisting substance abuse/dependence and mental health disorder. Crossroads is an intensive program that functions as a treatment court. The Court identifies youth that it believes if it weren't for their mental health and substance abuse issues would not otherwise be involved in the juvenile justice system. Crossroads was initially designed as a conventional drug court, but was converted into a co-occurring disorders court in 2003 when Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio was elected Juvenile Division Judge of the Summit County Common Please Court. Crossroads has brought the Court and Summit County much attention as a nation model and leader in interventions for youth with comorbid needs.

Weekly review hearings with the designated Crossroad's Magistrate serve as a tool to enable the Crossroads staff to impose immediate rewards and consequences. Crossroads is comprised of a presiding Magistrate; a Juvenile Division prosecutor, a Court contracted Attorney/GAL to represent the youth's best interest, a part time clerk/bailiff, a part time community worker, four intensive probation officers, and a department supervisor. Probation Officer's work in unison with community providers throughout the duration of the youth's probationary period, which is typically a year long.

Community collaboration is the foundation of the program. The Crossroads Treatment Team, which is comprised of all four of the department's PO's, the unit supervisor, the court contracted licensed Chemical Dependency Treatment Counselor, and all community providers with kids in the program, meets bi-weekly for case planning and review to ensure continuity of care and consistency. The program has the youth working through four phases which they advance through at their own pace. At the end of the probation, if the youth is discharged successfully, the charges that brought them into the program and any subsequent charges or probation violations are dismissed by the Court.

2011 found Crossroads involved in the final stages of a national research study on the effectiveness of juvenile mental health courts. Crossroads was one of two sites selected nation-wide to participate in the study, being funded by the National Institute of Justice and conducted by Policy Research Associates of Delmar, New York. The Juvenile Court anticipates the findings to be released by mid-2013 and believes this study will continue to bring place Crossroads and Summit County Juvenile Court national attention as a leader in such specialty court juvenile justice interventions.

Due to the diversionary element of Crossroads, youth who are adjudicated of violent crimes, with the exception of domestic violence, simple assault, and misdemeanor menacing are not eligible to participate. Further disqualifiers include youth who have a previous adjudication for drug trafficking, a offense of a sexual nature, or a prior Felony of the first degree.

In calendar year 2011, Crossroads admitted 45 new families. Also during the year, there were 41 youth released from supervision. As of December 31, 2011, 39 youths and families were actively participating in the program.

New Paths is a dedicated docket operated by the Court specifically designed to serve youth who have a developmental disability and juvenile justice related delinquency issue. Court staff from the Crossroads Unit work with families of these special needs youth to facilitate interventions and referrals to the community wherever needed. Probation Officers become involved immediately upon a youth being identified as having a special need. The Officer functions in the capacity of intake worker, probation officer, and case manager which promotes continuity of care and consistency. Where ever needed, the Officer works to provide reasonable accommodations to the youth and to ensure effective service delivery.

In the event a youth is adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation, the New Paths officer remains in place through the duration of the probationary period. Progress is monitored through regular school visits, contact with service providers, and regular review hearings with the Magistrate as needed.

Family Resource Center

Lisa Karas, Program Coordinator

Now in its sixth year, the Family Resource Center (FRC) operates under the philosophy that short-term assistance will lessen recidivism and assist families in being self-sufficient. The FRC continues to serve youth and families in addressing challenging issues such as: teen parenting, truancy, community re-entry and domestic violence. The FRC, made possible by Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funding through the State of Ohio and County of Summit Departments of Job and Family Services, built on its collaborative community relationships to serve nearly 800 clients (youth and adults) in the Summit County area in 2011.

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

The Teen Parent Education and Support Program aims to work with pregnant and parenting teens to acquire the information and skills necessary to be effective parents, to continue their education and to encourage self-sufficiency. The FRC engages clients in individual case management and referrals to area agencies to address their specific needs.

The School-to-Work Program assists in preparing youth in "Jumping Over Barriers to Success (JOBS)" by encouraging school attendance and preparation for work. Each youth who completes the program receives job readiness assessment and supportive case management services. In 2011 74 youth were enrolled in the program and received some level of employability skill training. Sixty-five percent of youth enrolled obtained employment. The FRC works closely with the Tri County Jobs for Ohio Graduates Next Step initiative at the Summit County Job Center to meet School-to-Work Program goals. All 74 youth were also enrolled at The JOB Center and received additional services from them.

Thanks to a generous grant obtained by the Women's Board from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation and equipment donated by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, the FRC is able to offer the Education Enrichment Program that includes a Computer Lab and web-based learning tools for youth and families to explore career software, and develop an array of self-improvement and coping skills that will serve them well now and in the future. In 2011 the FRC expanded the Enrichment Program to include tutoring services. The tutors are students from The University Of Akron Education Department who are here at Juvenile Court fulfilling their internship requirement.

During the 2011 year The Family Resource Center continued the Responder Program in twelve middle schools in the Summit County area. The Responder Program strives to provide case management services to youth who are struggling in middle school with truancy issues, behavior issues, academic issues and mental health concerns. The majority of youths involved in the Responder Program have seen success in decreasing truancy, decreasing negative behavior at school and have improved their academic performance.

In the Fall of 2011 the FRC launched a Truancy Mediation Program, in which a mediator (case manager), mediates on cases in which a youth has been charged with truancy. The goal of the program is to resolve the issue of truancy by looking at the causes on an individual family basis and as a team develop a plan that best addresses that youth's needs. The mediator also acts as a case manager in terms of providing supportive services to the families. In 2011 the mediation program focused on Akron Public Middle Schools.

The collaborations with our community partners allows the FRC to maximize our collective resources. Through a partnership with Catholic Social Services and Greenleaf Family Center, the FRC hosted "Such is Life," an 8-week life skill building program.

CASA/GAL Program

Beth Cardina, Program Coordinator

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

The program is funded by the Summit County Juvenile Court and with grants from the Victims of Crime Act, the State Victims Assistance Act, National CASA, local foundations, businesses, organizations and 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.

The CASA/GAL Department consists of 12 staff members. During 2011, the staff and approximately 300 volunteer child advocates provided a voice for 845 dependent, abused or neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of the program's active volunteers and the number of children it serves ranks as one of the highest of any CASA/GAL program in the State of Ohio and the fourth largest in the nation.

Additionally, with the support from The Kimberly S. Denholm Charities, community grants, individual donations and the Women's Board, the CASA/GAL Volunteer Holiday Toy Shop and the Court's Toy Project coordinated their efforts into one event, providing holiday gifts to over 300 children in care.

Child Responsibility Project/Community Service

Phil Lucco, Program Director

The Child Responsibility Project's function is to locate job sites where youth will work in order to pay restitution to the victim of their offense. The money that the youth earns is provided through the Reclaim Ohio grant and is paid directly to the victim by the Court. The juvenile is credited an hourly wage as dictated by state law. The victim then receives the wages up to \$600. It is also the responsibility of this unit to compute the hours and track them. There were 114 juveniles that took part in the Child Responsibility Project, completing 4,443 hours worked and earning \$31,101.11 which was paid to victims of crime. The juvenile received \$7.00 an hour.

The Community Service Department works closely with the Intake and Probation Departments to assure that youth are meeting the requirements of their community service sanction. In 2011, 719 juveniles were ordered to complete community service. The completed community service hours in 2011 were 6,425.

In 2003, the Court initiated its Special Projects program. This program allows a juvenile to earn credit for eight hours of ordered community service by earning \$40.00 which, depending on the time of year, will be used to purchase toys, winter clothes, food or school supplies. These items are donated to the needy in Summit County. It is the responsibility of this department to track the paperwork for the projects, take custody of the items and assure the delivery of the items to those in need.

Volunteer of the Year

CASA PATTY HARRIS NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

A devoted advocate for children. A mentor for other volunteers. A program facilitator. Those were just a few of the examples cited by Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio as she introduced Patty Harris as the Court's 2011 Volunteer of the Year at a reception on March 19th.

Ms. Harris has been a volunteer with the CASA/GAL Program for seven years. In her very first assignment as a CASA, she logged over 1,200 hours and drove over a 1,000 miles to assure that the five children on that particular case had their best interests represented. She has since represented 21 other children in her tenure as a CASA volunteer.



2011 Summit County Juvenile Court Volunteer of the Year Patty Harris (left) with Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

As Judge Teodosio noted in her introduction, "Patty Harris has given her heart, her soul, her compassion and her tremendous capabilities to the program. The children of Summit County need and deserve more people like her."

Ms. Harris joins Nancy Patton (Citizens Review Board), Carol Kohar (Women's Board), Linda Sinar (CASA/GAL), Ruth Dodridge (Women's Board) and Becky Retzer (True North Ministries) as Volunteer of the Year Award winners.

2010 Employees of the Year

On May 26, 2011, Bailiff Lisa Eagle, Chief Probation Officer Curtis Howard and CASA Volunteer Coordinator Rashara Walker were announced as the Court's 2010 Employees of the Year.

Ms. Eagle was cited for her ability to organize the dockets of six magistrates, complete time-sensitive tasks and interact well with the public.

Mr. Howard was instrumental in the formation of new programming at the Court. His "Thinking for a Change" initiative has been very beneficial to the youth it serves. Howard was also praised for his administrative and leadership skills.

Ms. Walker not only maintained her duties as a Volunteer Coordinator, she took on the role as a primary coordinator of the Summit for Kids event which proved to be a huge success.



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, second from left, joins 2010 Juvenile Court Employees of the Year, from left, Lisa Eagle, Rashara Walker and Curtis Howard. The three award winners were announced at the Court's Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 26th.

Women's Board

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

In the past year, the Women's Board approved a substantial grant to the Court which will facilitate the opening the renovation of two halls in the Detention Center that will be used to separate youth involved in "Thinking for a Change" Cognitive Behavioral Therapy from the general Detention population to improve their best opportunity to succeed in the program.

In the past year, the Women's Board again logged over 4,000 at the Court. Two of its members, including current member Ruth Dodridge (2009), have been named as the Court's Volunteer of the Year.

Teen Court

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

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

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

In 2011, 45 active volunteers from 13 high schools participated in 20 Teen Court hearings.

2011 Accomplishments Under the Leadership of Judge Teodosio

Additional Funding: The Court continued its practice of seeking funding from outside sources, thereby lessening its reliance on the county's General Fund, particularly since 2008. Because of the Court's success in securing these funds, it has been able to maintain current staffing levels and services the Court provides.

JDAI Initiative Takes Shape: The Court implemented new standards of procedures in the Detention Center regarding the day-to-day services the youth in Detention receive. The initiative also examined the risk level of each youth to determine whether the youth would be placed in Detention.

Production of Court Videos: Through a grant provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and supported and coordinated by the National Center for Mental Health/Juvenile Justice, the Models for Change mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network and the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Court produced two videos to aid youth and families as they entered the juvenile justice system. The DVDs are instructional. One video is designed for youth who have a case to be heard in Juvenile Court. The video explains the Court process and introduces them to their rights. The second video explains to parents and guardians that their child is safe and stresses the need for communication between them and Court personnel to make it easier for their child to navigate through the Court process. The Court will show these videos to each youth and their parents before the juvenile's first Court hearing. These videos will also be posted on the Court's website and be available for viewing in various waiting areas throughout the Court.

Professional Development: During 2011, 125 Court professionals completed 3,957 additional training hours. They received presentations and education on 87 different topics in areas that directly or indirectly impact their daily duties at the Court. Many of the presentations and trainings were conducted at the Court.

RECLAIM Ohio Standing Remains Consistent: For the fourth year in a row, the Court was either first or second in the State of Ohio in receiving RECLAIM Ohio funds. The Court received those funds based on the number of felony adjudications and Ohio Department of Youth Services bed-day usage. Those numbers are factored into a formula and compared to the activity of other counties in the state. The funding is a product of responsible management at the Court while providing innovative programming and education at the community level. This has allowed the Court to enhance its rehabilitation for youth who remain under Court supervision. This has resulted in a decrease in bed-days, which is becoming a positive trend. For example, in 2010, there were 9,522 less bed-days than the year before. During fiscal year 2011, there were 2,987 less bed-days used than in 2010. As a result, in 2011, the Court yielded \$3.66 million, or a 10% share, of available RECLAIM funds from the State of Ohio.

The Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court*

Bruce Alexander
Akaree Anderson
Cheryl Anderson
Chariti Armstead
Rebecca Armstrong
Tia Autrey

Tammy Barnes
Terry Bendo
Linda Bennett
Christine Berbelis
Kathy Bertsch
Bob Bickett
Emmanuel Blackmon
Patty Blasio
Jennifer Bond
Jon Booher
Stephanie Borak
Welby Broaddus
Kimberly Brooks
Christine Brown
Sandra Brown
Bryan Bryce
Mary Burney
Adrien Burton
Alex Byard

Lorrie Campbell
Beth Cardina
Ben Carro
Melissa Carson
Brad Christman
Roslyn Clark
Daniel Cody
Renee Conlon
Amanda Covert
Laconia Crandall
Amber Crowe

Stanley Davis
Bill Davis
Christopher Decrane
Sarah DeLeo
Jennifer Dinkins
Lisa DiSabato-Moore
Carmen Dorman

Lisa Eagle
Cheryl Evans

Ruby Fair
Chanin Faith
Chris Falconer
Lori Favalon
Chris Fergus
John Fickes
Tremain Fields
Kevin Floyd
Brian Fogle

Darin Ford
Thomas Freeman
Julianne Fuller
Alan Futo

Douglas Gabel
Tom Gaffney
Tavia Galonski
Susan Gatts
Hadley George
Taylora Gordon
Davine Green
Norma Green
Keith Griggs
Andrew Gucciardo
Don Guthrie

Glorena Harvath
Tom Henretta
Katie Herman
Jessica Heropulos
Erica Herrin
LaTonya Hill
Kandy Hixson
David Horner
Curtis Howard
Bryan Howe

Andre Jackson
Perry James
Kaneesha Johnson
Michael Johnson
Nate Johnson
Tammy Johnson
Kenneth Jones
Lavel Jones

Kristen Kaludy
Lisa Karas
Sabrina Kearns
Allen Kelly
Joe Kernan
Judi Keyes
Jennifer Kolasky
Irene Kuckovic

Erin Lane
Richard Lilly
Blaize Lishewski

Barbara List
Donald Lomax
Phil Lucco
Keith Luhning
Laura Lynd-Robinson

Tillman Manuel III
Jim Martin
Lavar Martin

Stacey Mathieu
Timothy Mauldin
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Rob McCarty
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Raynell Sims
Steven Sims
Robert Singletary

Annie Skapin
Eric Small
Raylene Smead
Triston Tyrrell Smead
Carie Smith
Christopher Smith
Kathy Smith
Thomas Smith
Kristen Soltis
Mike Soyars
Nick Stahl
Steve Stahl
Sara Stenger
Tammy Stiles
Maureen Sullivan

Rachelle Taylor
Richard Tempsey
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Adam Testa
Cathy Richardson Thomas
Esther Thomas
Jody Tolley
Michael Tramonte
Jennifer Tyler
Woody Tyrrell

Dante Ursetti
Don Ursetti

Katy Van Horn
Joanne Vetter

Christian Wade
Denver Wade
Rashara Walker
Terry Walton
Michael Ward
Dr. Thomas Webb
December West
John Wetmore
James Whited
Tim Wilkes
Kevin Williams
Steve Williamson
Carman Wilson
Jane Wilson
Eddie Winstead
Tiffany Worthey
Quin Wychanko

Joshua Young
Joan Zito

* list includes part-time employees, employees who worked a portion of 2011 and interns.



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