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**THE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**  
**JUVENILE DIVISION**  
**LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO, JUDGE**





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# **2006 Annual Report of the Summit County Juvenile Court**

***Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge***



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

**Robert Bickett, Court Administrator**  
**David Horner, Assistant Court Administrator**  
**Steve Stahl, Assistant Court Administrator**

## **Magistrates**

Tavia Baxter  
Katherine Bertsch  
Bradford Christman  
Thomas Freeman  
Maria Kostoff  
Kristin Maxwell  
Robert McCarty

Denise McGuckin  
Mary Ann Mendlik  
Christine Rees  
Tammy Richardson  
Rita Rochford  
John Vuillemin  
James Whited

### Summit County Juvenile Court Vision Statement

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

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## **2006 Annual Report – Message from Judge Teodosio**



If there is one truth I have discovered in my administration of the Summit County Juvenile Court, it's that the opportunity to evolve presents itself constantly. It is up to the Court to seize those opportunities and craft programs that address the issues and interests of the Court and the people it serves.

It is not my place to determine whether we have succeeded in that effort, but it is my responsibility to assure that we try. We must be always mindful that our success is outcome-based. It is why the Court has adopted a new slogan: *Turning lives around one child at a time.*

It is more than a motto; it is a mission, one that everyone involved in the Court process should embrace. Rarely does a case come before this Court that can be described as "textbook." A life, a future is at stake. At all times we must follow the law. But there are also times when we must follow our heart and hope that it leads to wisdom.

I also believe that, beyond the courtroom, the Court must provide programming to help our children. The newly-developed Family Resource Center is an example of how the Court can evolve to extend its reach into the community.

The Family Resource Center offers case management and outreach services to aid teenagers engulfed in their personal maelstrom to find safe harbor. It is detailed in this annual report how the program works, but the specific purpose is to offer help and, more importantly, provide hope.

The programs we have developed at the Court are a by-product of aspiration and inspiration. It is important for the Court to forge a covenant with the community; a covenant of trust that this Court will be responsive and responsible in the manner in which it provides justice, render rehabilitation to both offender and victim and always seek progressive, innovative ways to achieve that.

Such success might not be gauged with pie charts and statistics. Such success might not have tangible, visible evidence. It is a gradual but worthy task.

Such is the nature of evolution.

# COURT FINANCE

Prepared by Robert Bickett, Court Administrator

The 2006 Summit County Juvenile Court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled **\$12,704,929.76**.

## COUNTY FUNDING

Total County funding: **\$8,922,700.00**

DETENTION CENTER	29%
GENERAL OFFICE/JUDICIAL	33%
PROBATION/ADMINISTRATION	38%

## STATE/FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

**FY2006 (7-1-05 TO 6-30-06)**

Total State/Federal Grant funding: **\$3,782,229.76**

RECLAIM OHIO GRANT	99%
JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY	1%

## STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

### SERVICE/PROVIDER

### CONTRACT AMOUNT

#### **Day Treatment**

Akron YMCA Phoenix Day Suspension	105,250.00
East Akron Community House	250,000.00
Akron UMADAOP	100,000.00

#### **Electronic Monitoring**

Secured Monitoring	15,000.00
Oriana House, Inc.	25,000.00

#### **Educational Services**

Akron YMCA Phoenix School	65,000.00
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#### **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	98,550.00
Oriana House Juvenile Halfway House	925,200.00

#### **CROSSROADS Program**

Greenleaf Family Center	40,844.00
Child Guidance & Family Solutions	70,000.00

#### **Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services**

Community Health Center	35,000.00
Akron Health Department	60,000.00

#### **Mentoring**

CYO and Community Services	43,373.00
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#### **Mental Health Counseling**

Child Guidance & Family Solutions	25,000.00
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#### **Competency Evaluations**

Blick Clinic	5,000.00
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#### **Youth Risk & Needs Assessment**

Ohio State University	45,636.00
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#### **Community Service/Restitution Program**

Funds to victims	55,000.00
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#### **Citizen's Review Board Coordinator**

48,566.00

#### **Long Term out of Home Placement**

400,000.00

Summit County CSB  
Boys Village  
Abraxis  
Berea Children's Home  
Glen Mills Schools  
Belfair  
Parmadale  
Homes for Kids

#### **Diversion Programming**

Distributed in varying amounts to fourteen Police Departments and Sheriff's Office	199,571.00
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## **Additional 2006 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 alternative revenue sources through local, state and federal agency grant funding. These funds are typically used to create 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 2006, grant funding committed to the court for special programming totaled \$1,042,068.** The programs assisted by this funding are:

**Firearms Safety Education, \$30,000 continued funding:** The Firearms Education Officer works in partnership with law enforcement agencies throughout Summit County and speaks to middle school students concerning the proper way to react when confronted with situations involving a firearm. ***The funding was provided by Federal Department of Justice and administered through the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.***

**Intensive Probation Supervision, \$45,541:** The Court's Probation Officers offer intense services and case management to high risk offenders. Most Intensive Probation cases are placed on a suspended commitment through the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). All participants are engaged in a minimum of 32 hours per week in structured activities. ***The funding is provided by the Department of Justice through its Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.***

**AmeriCorps Juvenile Justice Work Connection, \$10,726:** Two part-time positions were funded in 2006 to assist at-risk youth obtain jobs, job training, GED and/or necessary support to gain high school diplomas or apply for college. More than 130 youth were served in 2006. ***A Federal AmeriCorps grant administered through the Ohio Department of Youth Services funds this program.***

**Juvenile Court Health Advocacy Program—HIV Prevention \$5,955:** Highly trained nurses delivered HIV/STD Awareness classes in Detention on Saturday mornings in 2006. Tests of basic knowledge were administered immediately before and again after each session to measure gains in understanding of prevention. Over 250 boys and girls took part. ***Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Health and administered through the Akron Health Department.***

**The Child Advocate Team and Permanency Planning & Adoption Program, \$490,000:** Provides intensive case management services to children both in temporary and permanent Children Services custody to help ensure that the best interests of dependant, neglected or abused children are protected and presented at hearings to the court. The ultimate goal is to aid in finding safe, nurturing homes for all of these children. ***Funding is provided by federal TitleXX/TANF funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.***

**The Family Resource Center, \$459,846:** Intensive case management is delivered to at-risk youth and their families who are involved in domestic violence disputes, are pregnant or parenting teens, are teens at risk of dropping out of school or are returning from long-term stays in DHS, detention or other placement. The FRC is also a resource for other court-involved youth and the community as a whole. It serves as a central point of referral for all services available throughout Summit County for youth and their families. ***Funding is provided by Federal TANF/PRC funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.***



SUMMIT COUNTY

**DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES**

*...building stronger families for a better community*

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

Effective November 1, 2006 juvenile traffic offenders meeting certain pre-determined criteria were offered the opportunity to participate in the newly introduced court traffic diversion program. The participants are required to participate in the Court's SAFTE Program (Staying Accident-Free Through Education), pay court costs, a program fee and make a donation for needy families. The Clerks office is responsible for scheduling participants for the class, the collection of all monies assessed, all donations and monitoring attendance.

In 2006, the Clerk's office collected a total of \$401,617.61. Of this amount, \$20,394.00 was received for the payment of fines and costs in delinquency, unruly or adult cases; \$160,785.50 was collected for traffic fines and costs; \$26,794.24 was collected for restitution; \$191,848.87 was collected for computer and legal research, special fees, public defender, reparations rotary fund, county and clerk fees and indigent application fees; \$1,795.00 was collected for Prohibition Diversion and Driver Intervention Program (SAFTE Program).

2006 Supreme Court Report total breakdown by type is as follows:

**THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO  
FORM D  
JUVENILE DIVISION  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

COUNTY SUMMIT JUDGE Linda Tucci Teodosio

Report for months of January, 2006 thru December, 2006

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	T	V
	Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, Neglect, or Abuse	Unruly	Adult Cases	Motion for Permanent Custody	Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation	Support Enforcement or Modification	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A.	All Others	TOTAL	Visiting Judge
New cases filed	5399	3163	1296	819	960	88	234				28	11987	5
Cases transferred in, reactivated or redesignated	616	200	2	46	132	200	278	22				1496	7

**TERMINATIONS BY:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	T	V
Trial by Judge	21	3	25	1		134	25				27	236	3
Trial by Magistrate	326	27	950	40	29	74	362	2				1810	
Dismissal by party, judge or prosecutor	670	213	223	158	318	5	60				1	1648	1
Admission to judge	159	7		14	5	1	4					190	1
Admission to magistrate	3867	3087		555	376		5					7890	
Certification/Waiver granted	28	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	28	
Unavailability of party for trial	778	284		91	305		4					1462	
Transfer to another judge or court	57	57	7	2			1					124	
Referral to private judge	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Interlocutory appeal or order													
Other terminations	6	1	4		1							12	
TOTAL (Add lines 5-15)	5912	3679	1209	861	1034	214	461	2			28	13400	5
Number of Informal cases	369											369	

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## **Probation Department**

Curtis Howard, Chief Probation Officer

The Probation Department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of an average of 63 new cases each month in 2006. The total number of cases provided services increased in 2006 to 1,263, which included 760 new assignments and 503 cases that were carried over from the previous year. The 1,263 is the most cases served in four years.

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 2006 was approximately 35 cases per Probation Officer, which is slightly higher than 2005 and 2004. The Probation staff consists of 15 Probation Officers, a Probation Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant, and the Chief Probation Officer.

The department assisted victims in the recovery of approximately \$35,000 in restitution paid directly to victims. Probationers also worked over 5000 hours of community service.

Of the 124 youths that were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, 49 were committed from the Probation Department, which is approximately 40% of the commitments. In 2006, 23 juveniles were bound over to the General Division of The Common Pleas Court to be tried as adults. Of that 23, five (5) were on probation at the time they were bound over. Five hundred sixty-eight (568) cases were terminated from probation in 2006.

Summit County Juvenile Court and the Probation Department continue to maintain working relationships with community committees and agencies in an effort to enhance the development and security of the Summit County Community.

### **Services and Programs Utilized in 2006**

Akron Health Department, Akron Urban League, Blick Clinic, Catholic Social Services, Child Guidance/Family Solutions, Children's Services Board, Cluster For Youth, Community Health Center, Edwin Shaw Hospital, GPS Monitoring, Greenleaf Family Center, Ohio Department of Youth Services, Oriana House In-House Incarceration, Pastoral Counseling, Phoenix Day Suspension, Phoenix School, Summit County Health Department, T.R.U.C.E., Urban Ounce of Prevention, Victim Services, Youth Outreach Center



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## Sex Offender Management Unit

Terry Walton, Felony Disposition Supervisor

The Sex Offender Management Unit is comprised of three full-time Probation Officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor. This specialized probation unit averages 80 cases. These youth have been charged with or adjudicated for a sexually aggressive offense as described in the Ohio Revised Code. In 2006, **101 incidents** were referred to this department, reflecting a **32% increase in referrals** from 2005. The average term of probation for a sexual offender is 22 months.

Unique to this unit, the Probation Officers assigned to the Sexual Offender Management Unit supervise their clients from Intake through termination of probation including any placements that may occur. Client contact is made at home, in school, in the office, and/or in treatment sessions. Acting as co-facilitators, the probation officers collaborate with Child Guidance and Family Solutions in providing three counseling groups a week at the Juvenile Court. An offender group for the developmentally delayed client was added in 2006. Referrals may also be made to private providers to facilitate sexual offender treatment programs. These programs provide group, individual and family counseling to help eliminate sexually aggressive behaviors. One Probation Officer runs a group called "Wise Guys, Male Responsibility Curriculum", for less serious offenders. This curriculum was developed and distributed nationally by the Family Life Council.

In 2006, the unit continued to review the changes in Megan's Law and how the new federal law, Adam Walsh Act, will be implemented in Ohio. The unit is in compliance with requirements for DNA testing for all juveniles that have been adjudicated of a felony offense and the law requiring HIV/VD testing.

In 2006 this unit again sponsored quarterly multi-county probation officers meetings. This collaboration between sex offender probation officers from various counties helps to establish best practice policies in supervising this population in the community. The unit's Probation Officers also sit on some important committees within the county as well as the state. They are members of the Ohio Supreme Court Roundtable, Summit County Sex Offender Management Committee, and the Summit-Portage Regional Advisory Group. These committees provide the Probation Officers with an opportunity to keep informed of new strategies in managing sex offenders successfully in the community.

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## **Citizen's Review Board**

Magistrate Rita M. Rochford, Director

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

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

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

**In 2006 there were 330 children on the Citizen Review Board's caseload with approximately 319\* review hearings on its docket.**

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

## **The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court**

In 2006, The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court demonstrated once again why it is such an indelible asset as members logged over 4,100 volunteer hours at the Court.

Aside from their usual contributions to the detainees, the Crossroads Program, Teen Court, the Court library and the continuing education of Court staff, the ladies of the Women's Board played integral roles toward advancing additional programming and projects at the Court.

The Women's Board provided the funding to create a garden in a small plot of land between sections of the Detention Center. Judge Teodosio wanted to introduce volunteers from detention to another facet of life skills and felt a garden would be a perfect way to do so. Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Bing holds a degree in Horticulture and he taught the volunteers the proper methods to create and maintain a garden. The initial success of that program prompted the Women's Board to provide a grant for the Court to purchase a greenhouse. It helped the Court launch Project: Greenhouse Affect, wherein youth in detention can now plant and grow flowers and vegetables year-round.

The Juvenile Court staff again would like to thank the Women's Board for its incredible support and dedication.

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## **Diversion Unit**

Phil Lucco, Program Director

**T**he Diversion Unit's primary function is to communicate with all law enforcement departments in Summit County and to assist them with their needs and those of the children involved in the juvenile justice system. The Intake Department forwards police reports for children who may be eligible for diversion services to the Diversion Unit. In turn, the Diversion Unit forwards the name to the appropriate police department for a determination as to whether the child meets its criteria for services. Participation in diversion services allows a lower-level offender to receive services in their community and avoid the Court process and an official juvenile record. **In 2006, 283 juvenile were ordered into diversion by the Court.**

**The Child Responsibility Project** is part of the Diversion Unit. It is the Child Responsibility Project's function to locate job sites where youth will work in order to pay restitution to the victim of their offense. The money that the youth earns is provided through the Reclaim Ohio grant and is paid directly to the victim by the Court. The juvenile was paid an hourly wage as dictated by state law. The wages, up to \$600 per victim, were then turned over to the victim. It is also the responsibility of this unit to compute the hours and track them. **In 2006, youths participating in the Child Responsibility Project completed 7,937 work hours and earned \$47,622.07 which were paid to victims of crime.**

Community service hours ordered by the Court are also monitored by the Diversion Unit. The unit works closely with the Intake and Probation Departments to assure that youth are meeting the requirements of their community service sanction. **In 2006, 1,519 youth were assigned to community service in 23 Summit County communities, totaling 29,269 hours.**

In 2004, the Court also continued its Special Projects program, initiated in 2003. This program allows a juvenile to earn credit for eight hours of ordered community service by earning \$40.00 which, depending on the time of year, will be used to purchase toys, food or school supplies. These items are donated to the needy in Summit County. It is the responsibility of the Diversion Unit to track the paperwork for the projects, take custody of the items and assure the delivery to the items to those in need. **In 2006, 43 juveniles participated in the Food Project, 27 juveniles participated in the School Supply Project and 44 juveniles participated in the Toy Project.**

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

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## **2006 Employees of the Year**

Three Juvenile Court staff members were recognized as Employees of the Year: Group Counselor Bryan Bryce, Traffic Clerk Ursula Gould and CASA/GAL Outreach Coordinator Esther Thomas were honored at ceremonies in Summit County Council Chambers.

Ursula Gould, who works the Traffic window at the Court, began working for the Court at the Family Crisis Center in December 1979. When the Center closed its doors, Ursula transferred to Dan Street in the Clerk's Office.

The Traffic window is one of the busiest sites in the entire Court and Ursula handles the volume of visitors in a quiet, assured, responsive way. As Judge Teodosio said in her introductory remarks, "She is thorough in a job that requires thoroughness."

Bryan Bryce has been at the Court for nearly three years, starting as a part-time Group Counselor in Detention. His aptitude and attitude soon caught the attention of supervisors and when a full-time position opened up, Bryan expressed an interest in it and filled the position with expertise and professionalism.

Bryan was lauded for his willingness to learn as many facets of the job as possible and he always ready to help a co-worker regardless of the situation.

Esther Thomas closed a successful law practice to move to Akron and begin work at the Court under a grant furnished by the National CASA Association. Esther, recently promoted to Director of the Family Resource Center, coordinated outreach efforts on behalf of the Court's CASA/GAL Program. She played an integral role in promoting volunteerism in the program, realizing a 20% increase in volunteers.

Congratulations to Bryan Bryce, Ursula Gould and Esther Thomas.



The 2006 Juvenile Court Employees of the Year pose with Judge Teodosio following ceremony. From left: Ursula Gould, Esther Thomas, Judge Teodosio, Kevin Bing and Bryan Bryce. Bing was cited for his work on the Court's Project: Greenhouse Affect.

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## **Project: Greenhouse Affect**

In 2005, Judge Teodosio thought it would be a good experience for detainees to grow a garden on a vacant plot of land on the Court premises adjoining the Detention Halls. The results was a bounty that included vegetables that were either served in the detention cafeteria or donated to local food banks, flowers that were planted on the Court campus and pumpkins given to kids served by the CASA/GAL Program.

The initial success of the program provided the impetus to have the program, well...*grow*. Thus, the creation of Project: Greenhouse Affect. Again with Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Bing overseeing its development and implementation, Judge Teodosio had an actual greenhouse constructed on the Court grounds where vegetables and flowers were grown during the winter months. When ready, they were harvested and replanted in the outdoor garden the detainees worked in the previous year.



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## Intake Department

Joe Petrucelli, Supervisor

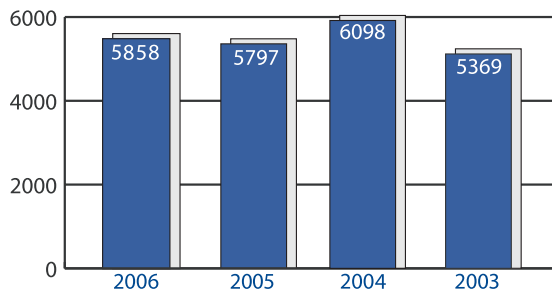
The Intake Department is usually the first and, sometimes, the only contact that alleged delinquent and unruly juveniles and their families have with the Court. Intake Officers explain the legal process to the juveniles and their parents/guardians, gather information about the juvenile's background and make appropriate recommendations to the Court based on that information.

The **Victim Impact Panel** continues to educate juveniles and their parents/guardians about the negative effects of substance abuse. Last year, almost 200 juveniles and their parents/guardians viewed the program. The Victim Impact Panel is coordinated by the Court with the assistance of the Catholic Commission, law enforcement officers, representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving and parents who relate their experiences after losing a child because of a drunk driver. Victim Offender Mediation and The Center for Restorative Justice provided the Court with a mediation program that involves the offender, the offender's legal guardian and the victim. The desired outcome of such mediation is for all parties to come to a mutual agreement beneficial to everyone involved and providing a direct accountability to the victim by the offender.

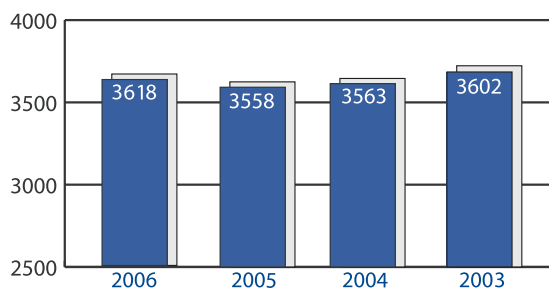
The **Truancy Task Force** continued its collaboration with local school districts, police departments and social service agencies to attack the truancy problem in our community. **Project THRIVE** worked with three school districts to provide direct assistance to families. The **Alcohol Cessation Training (ACT)** program was begun in 2006 to provide the opportunity for adolescents who come to Court charged with a first alcohol possession charge to enter an educational program directed by the Akron Health Department. Upon completion of the diversionary program, the charge against the offender would be dismissed.

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

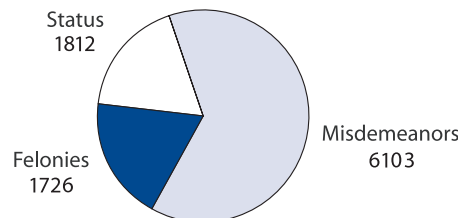
**Total Referrals**



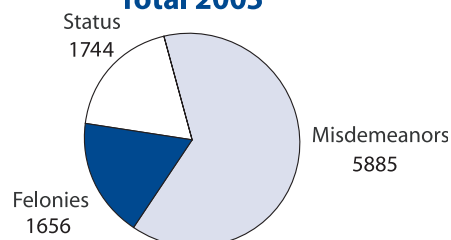
**Children Referred**



**Total 2006**



**Total 2005**





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## The Crossroads Program

Dawn Jones, Program Administrator

In 2006, the Crossroads Program had 52 clients admitted to the program, 32 males and 20 females ranging in age of 12 to 17.

There were 48 completions of the program in 2006; of those six were neutral (meaning the client moved out of the county or state OR was placed in long-term residential placement). Twenty-four were successful and eighteen were unsuccessful.

The numbers don't tell the total story of the Crossroads Program, an intensive probation program that has gained national notice and numerous awards for its innovative treatment of youth afflicted with the co-occurring disorders of mental health and substance abuse.

The Crossroads Program has aided hundreds of youth to resurrect a life that was in a helpless spiral of despair and desperation as substance abuse and mental health issues seized control of them.

Shown below are excerpts from a letter written by a recent graduate of the program and it articulates better than any assortment of numbers or any amount of awards the program receives, just what The Crossroads Program does so well:

*I was admitted to the Crossroads Program because I was put on probation for possession, consumption and paraphernalia. I failed to appear for assessments and community service and, therefore, I was sent to Oriana House. I was released successfully. Within two weeks of being released, I was arrested for paraphernalia again. In another week, I was arrested for two counts of stolen property. When I went to court, I was referred to the Crossroads Program and I was accepted*

*I used marijuana and alcohol on a daily basis. I used to steal to keep myself high or drunk and I didn't have a job. When I had a job, I was broke, had no bank account because I spent every penny on getting high or drunk.*

*My attitude about the program when I first got in was, "This is b.s." I didn't like (Crossroad Probation Officer) Ms. Heropulos or anything about the program. I just wanted to do what I wanted to do. That is why I was in trouble so many times. After spending so much time in detention, juvenile Oriana and adult Oriana for the first few months of my adult life, I began to listen to Ms. Heropulos, my mother and Judge Teodosio.*

*Since I started the Crossroads Program, I have begun to grow closer to my mother than we were before. I realized how much my mother cared for me and she also realized that I really cared for her. Before the program, my mother and I argued on a daily basis. Now it is rare.*

*Now that I have completed the program, I plan on joining the service as soon as possible. It will provide me with lifetime benefits and money for school. Until then, I just accepted a full-time job.*

*My life compared to what it used to be is "heaven" compared to "hell." When I first came into the Crossroads program, I thought it would be the other way around. But now that I am at the end, I am doing things that I missed out on in the first four years. I just recently told my mom that I felt normal for the first time in five years. Doing drugs was something I did to fit in. Now, I am happier than ever and I am never going back.*

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## **Psychology Services**

Dr. Thomas Webb, Staff Psychologist

Psychology services are provided for the Detention Center as well as the Court. For the former, the court psychologist is on-call 24/7 to meet the emergencies as they arise with detainees (e.g., behavioral crises placing a youth or others at risk of harm). Crisis-oriented counseling is available for youth in detention. The service also provides supports development of assessment programming and policy formulation for the Detention Center.

For court proceedings related to delinquency, the court psychologist is responsible for forensic evaluations where psychiatric and educational issues are in question. The most weighty of these is the Amenability (or Transfer of Jurisdiction) Hearing. During 2006, the number of Amenability Hearings for which the court psychologist was responsible increased fifty percent. For court referred children, psycho-educational evaluations are provided by a licensed school psychologist acting as a consultant to the psychology service.

The Court's psychology section has been instrumental in helping design several new services that benefit the juvenile offender population: collaborating with the University of Akron to research more effective family interventions, consulting with Ohio State to refine risk assessment tools and working with Children's Hospital to establish a forensic rotation at this facility for training fellows in child and adolescent psychiatry.

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## **Information Technology**

**Todd Schauffler, Director**

An additional staff member was added to the department in early 2006. The Help Desk Coordinator, Jim Martin, provides day-to-day support of computer systems. In addition, the expansion of the department has allowed for the development of an internal web site or intranet and development of in-house computer training. Additional computer training for employees will assist them with understanding how to better take advantage of technology systems in their daily jobs and further streamline the flow of information throughout the court. Future project plans include expansion of the attorney record search web module to allow access to scheduling and court records from outside the facility via a secure Internet connection. Also, the court continues efforts to update and enhance its case management system; an evidence tracking module is currently being tested and plans for a document imaging pilot project are in the early phases of development.

## JUVENILE COURT OPENS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

It was appropriate that this particular occasion was called an "open house." That is the way Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio and her staff would like the public to view its new Family Resource Center (FRC) and expanded Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program: a place where they can come to in order to seek assistance to face the challenges they face in their lives.

Nearly 150 people visited the William P. Kannel Juvenile Court Center on the afternoon of October 24<sup>th</sup> to share in the opening of the FRC and GAL areas which are designed to offer youth and family strengthening programming including assessment, service coordination, monitoring and follow-up to populations that are currently underserved.

"This is an exciting day for the Court," said Judge Teodosio at the opening ceremony. "This is a great opportunity for the Court to provide even greater outreach to our community."

In her remarks, Judge Teodosio outlined the populations the Family Resource Center would assist:



Judge Teodosio addresses crowd



Judge Teodosio speaks with a visitor in the waiting room of the Family Resource Center.



Julie Wayman addresses the crowd at the opening ceremony. Ms. Wayman has been named the Program Director of the Family Resource Center.



Dept. of Job and Family Services Director Sarah Kisner (L), Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio and Executive's Office Director of Law Karen Doty were speakers at the opening of the Family Resource Center and CASA/GAL Expansion ceremony.



The Family Resource Center offers a home-like feel to make visitors feel more comfortable.

Over 150 visitors attended the ceremony and reception.



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- Teen girls who are pregnant or have children will be offered guidance and access to the many programs that address pre-natal and post-partum care. Teen fathers will also be able to access services and information regarding his rights and responsibilities.
- Truants in danger of dropping out of school will have access to school-to-work programs or educational options and linked to other appropriate support services offered by various county providers that best suit their needs.
- The needs of youth facing re-entry into the community following a lengthy commitment in a Department of Youth Services or other residential facility will also be addressed. The FRC will guide the whole family through this difficult transition by working with our community partners to provide education, support and follow-up services.
- Youth and their families involved in domestic violence disputes will work with FRC program specialists to ensure that underlying issues are addressed through a variety of court and community-based interventions.

Judge Teodosio also lauded the expansion of the Court's GAL Program, calling it, "truly the voice of children involved in our Court." The expansion will allow the GAL Program to provide advocacy for an additional 300 children and assure that decisions are made that are in the best interests of the child.

The Family Resource Center and the GAL expansion are funded by two federal grants through the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services totaling \$950,000.

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## **CASA/GAL Department**

Julie Wayman, Program Director

The mission of the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program is to recruit, train and support volunteers who speak up for abused and neglected children in court. As a party in the proceedings, it is the role of the CASA/GAL 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 Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, local foundations, businesses, organizations and the CASA Board of Trustees, a 501(c)3 organization which exists to promote the program and to support volunteers in partnership with the court.

In 2006, the CASA/GAL Department added 13 new staff members. They joined **349** child advocates to provide a voice for **1,613** abused or neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of the program's active volunteers and the number of children it serves ranks as the highest of any CASA/GAL program in the State of Ohio.

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

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## 2006 Accomplishments

- **The Family Resource Center:** The Family Resource Center (FRC) opened at the Court in September. The FRC is designed to offer family-strengthening programs. It is funded by a \$460,000 grant facilitated by the county's Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS). The funding has been earmarked to offer a unique blend of resources and systems to our families and youth. By utilizing case management, follow-up and the many resources available in the Summit County community, the Juvenile Court will be better able to help our young people by providing case management services to address teenage pregnancy and parenthood, school and work issues, re-entry into the community following long-term commitment in the detention center or other institutions and domestic violence issues.
- A \$490,000 DJFS grant was utilized to expand the Court's Guardian ad Litem Program. An additional 300 neglected and/or abused children will have a staff of licensed social workers to provide case management throughout their involvement in the juvenile justice system. This program worked hand-in-hand with the CASA Program.
- **Reclaim Ohio Ranking:** For the first time ever, the Summit County Juvenile Court was ranked first in the state in receiving Reclaim Ohio funds from the Department of Youth Services. This is a clear indicator that the Court has been practicing fiscal responsibility.
- **Youth Offender Task Force:** By virtue of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio's leadership, the Court, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and the Akron Police Department have convened the Youth Offender Task Force. The Task Force's primary goal was to reduce juvenile crime particularly during the summer months. The Police Department scheduled a series of curfew sweeps designed to disperse large crowds before they escalated into unlawful activity. The Court scheduled additional staff to process the youthful offenders and hold them at the detention center until their parents or guardians could be notified and pick them up.
- **Project: Greenhouse Affect:** This program is an extension of the garden that was planted at the Court in 2005. Detainees volunteered to plant, nurture and harvest the garden. The vegetables yielded from the garden were eaten in the detention cafeteria or donated to local food banks. Flowers grown in the garden were planted around the Court complex. Pumpkins grown in the garden was given to children in the CASA/GAL Program to decorate. In 2006, Judge Teodosio had a greenhouse constructed on the Court grounds where vegetables and flowers were grown during the winter months. When ready, they were harvested and replanted in the outdoor garden. Judge Teodosio wanted the program to introduce detainees to different options and positive interests.
- **Psychiatric Intake Response Center (PIRC):** The Court continued its practice of entering into community partnerships by participating in the PIRC Program. By joining with Akron Children's Hospital and various social service agencies, the Court can assist families in finding prompt, proper treatment for those faced with the challenges of mental illness.
- **Diversion Programs:** The Court implemented two diversion programs for youthful traffic and underage drinking offenders. Project SAFTE (Staying Accident-Free Through Education) is offered to juveniles if they are ticketed for offenses that do not involve accidents and are low-level offenses. Other participants will be referred to the SAFTE Program by order of the Court as part of their disposition for unsafe driving, even though their case is ineligible for diversion. Project ACT (Alcohol Cessation Training) allows youth charged with first-time underage alcohol use the opportunity to attend classes at the Court to address the problems of alcohol usage. If those eligible for these programs attend classes and complete the programs, the charge against them will be diverted.

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## **The Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court \***

<b>Robert Aaron</b>	<b>Kevin Floyd</b>	<b>Kristin Maxwell</b>	<b>Steve Stahl</b>
<b>Bruce Alexander</b>	<b>Brian Fogle</b>	<b>Tracy Mays</b>	<b>Sara Stenger</b>
<b>Akaree Anderson</b>	<b>Darin Ford</b>	<b>Rob McCarty</b>	<b>David Stevens</b>
<b>Laura Asbury</b>	<b>Tom Freeman</b>	<b>Olivia McClellan</b>	<b>Tammy Stiles</b>
<b>Lori Augustus</b>		<b>Robert McFarren</b>	<b>Maureen Sullivan</b>
	<b>Tom Gaffney</b>	<b>Denise McGuckin</b>	
<b>Tammy Barnes</b>	<b>Tavia Baxter Galonski</b>	<b>Mary Ann Mendlik</b>	<b>Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio</b>
<b>Terry Bendo</b>	<b>Ursula Gould</b>	<b>David Molis</b>	<b>Cathy Richardson Thomas</b>
<b>Anna Benigno</b>	<b>Norma Green</b>	<b>Kandy Monroe</b>	<b>Esther Thomas</b>
<b>Linda Bennett</b>	<b>Don Guthrie</b>	<b>Robert Moore</b>	<b>Jody Tolley</b>
<b>Kathy Bertsch</b>		<b>Lynda Mullins</b>	<b>Denise Truxell</b>
<b>Douglas Bettis</b>		<b>Lora Mycoskie</b>	<b>Mary Beth Tschantz</b>
<b>Ashley Betty</b>	<b>Karen Haddad</b>	<b>Keysha Myers</b>	<b>Tazmin Turpin</b>
<b>Bob Bickett</b>	<b>Sherri Hankton</b>		<b>Triston Tyrrell</b>
<b>Patty Blasio</b>	<b>Aimee Harris</b>	<b>Shanda Nagle</b>	<b>Woody Tyrrell</b>
<b>Will Boddie, Jr.</b>	<b>Charece Harris</b>	<b>Michelle Neely</b>	
<b>Jennifer Bond</b>	<b>Michael Harvey</b>	<b>Kim Nelson</b>	<b>Don Ursetti</b>
<b>Mary Bonetti</b>	<b>Lisa Hawes</b>	<b>Mary Nicholis</b>	
<b>Jon Booher</b>	<b>Will Hawkins</b>	<b>Chariti Owens</b>	<b>Ed VandenBulke</b>
<b>Stephanie Borak</b>	<b>Katie Herman</b>	<b>Juwana Owens</b>	<b>Joanne Vetter</b>
<b>Anita Boyer</b>	<b>Michael Herman</b>		<b>John Vuillemin</b>
<b>Ellery Bradford</b>	<b>Jessica Heropulos</b>	<b>Juston Palmer</b>	
<b>Juan Branch</b>	<b>Kandy Hixson</b>	<b>Laure Palmeri</b>	<b>Rashara Walker</b>
<b>Kimberly Brooks</b>	<b>David Holmgren</b>	<b>Linda Palmeri</b>	<b>Lakumba Wallace</b>
<b>Beverly Brown</b>	<b>Erin Hookey</b>	<b>Jeanne Papoi</b>	<b>Brandy Walters</b>
<b>Sandra Brown</b>	<b>David Horner</b>	<b>Karen Parnell</b>	<b>Terry Walton</b>
<b>Bryan Bryce</b>	<b>Curtis Howard</b>	<b>Kim Pay</b>	<b>Julie Wayman</b>
<b>Mary Burney</b>		<b>Stephanie Peterson</b>	<b>Dr. Thomas Webb</b>
	<b>Jerry James</b>	<b>Joe Petrucelli</b>	<b>Rachel Weingart</b>
<b>Lorrie Campbell</b>	<b>Martha Jeffries</b>	<b>Keith Philpot</b>	<b>James Whited</b>
<b>Lisa Zeno Carano</b>	<b>Brenda Johnson</b>	<b>Jonathan Pooler</b>	<b>Tim Wilkes</b>
<b>Tom Cerne</b>	<b>Nate Johnson</b>	<b>Jeff Pope</b>	<b>Kevin Williams</b>
<b>Brad Christman</b>	<b>Tammy Johnson-Sparks</b>	<b>Raylene Pruszkowski</b>	<b>Michelle Williams</b>
<b>Sonya Cole</b>	<b>Dawn Jones</b>		<b>Jane Wilson</b>
<b>Delmar Coleman</b>	<b>Lavel Jones</b>	<b>Hema Ramachandran</b>	<b>John Wilson</b>
<b>Renee Conlon</b>		<b>Christine Rees</b>	<b>Eddie Winstead</b>
<b>Bob Cox</b>	<b>Kristen Kaludy</b>	<b>Leslie Rice</b>	<b>Quin Wychanko</b>
<b>Kurt Cox</b>	<b>Lisa Karas</b>	<b>Tammy Richardson</b>	
<b>Kelli Crawford</b>	<b>Allen Kelly</b>	<b>Grace Robinson</b>	<b>* list includes part-time</b>
<b>Arlune Culler</b>	<b>Joseph Kernan</b>	<b>Rita Rochford</b>	<b>employees and those</b>
	<b>Judi Keyes</b>	<b>Amanda Russell</b>	<b>employees who worked a</b>
<b>Jennifer Dinkins</b>	<b>Kara Koenig</b>		<b>portion of 2006.</b>
<b>Lisa DiSabato-Moore</b>	<b>Maria Kostoff</b>	<b>Michael Sales</b>	
<b>Heather Dyer</b>	<b>Irene Kuckovic</b>	<b>Rebecca Scalise</b>	
	<b>Rocky Kurchak</b>	<b>Robert Scalise</b>	
<b>Lisa Eagle</b>	<b>Shawn Lazarus</b>	<b>Todd Schauffler</b>	
<b>Debra Ellis</b>	<b>Richard Lilly</b>	<b>Cory Schweigert</b>	
<b>Cheryl Evans</b>	<b>Barbara List</b>	<b>Reginald Scott</b>	
<b>Julianne Evans</b>	<b>Donald Lomax</b>	<b>Kathryn Sellers</b>	
	<b>Leslie Lorenz</b>	<b>Lola Simmons</b>	
	<b>Phil Lucco</b>	<b>Annie Skapin</b>	
<b>Ruby Fair</b>	<b>Keith Luhring</b>	<b>Cheryl Simpson</b>	
<b>Chanin Faith</b>		<b>Justin Sims</b>	
<b>Chris Falconer</b>	<b>Melissa Madden</b>	<b>Corrine Six</b>	
<b>Jackie Farrance</b>	<b>Dawne Marlowe</b>	<b>Latana Slayton</b>	
<b>Lori Favalon</b>	<b>Chris Martin</b>	<b>Carie Smith</b>	
<b>Chris Fergus</b>	<b>Jim Martin</b>	<b>Thomas Smith</b>	
	<b>Stacey Mathieu</b>	<b>Mike Soyars</b>	
		<b>Willie Spencer</b>	

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