
THE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION
LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO, JUDGE



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2012 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**

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



It has been an interesting year at the Court; a year that has seen the Court grow, change and progress in the manner in which it serves our youth and serves our community.

Change is challenging, but in the ever-changing landscape of the juvenile justice system, change is necessary. It is also invigorating when the development of new ideas and fresh approaches yield positive results. However, change for the sake of change is not the goal, but rather change should be sought if it improves outcomes for the youth, the families and the community we serve.

The Court has always welcomed new concepts; it has always embraced new methods. In fact, this Court has served as a model for others to consider when implementing new programming. Yet, before any new idea is implemented, the Court has carefully considered the research and the Court's own data to predict how the project may impact the manner in which it administers justice and applies its methods of rehabilitation. It has entered into consultation with others who render constructive suggestions as to how the Court can improve facets of its operations. The Court has accepted and implemented many of those recommendations.

I believe it is important that this Court broadens its scope to address the diversity of needs of the youth who enter the juvenile justice system. It is key to long-term success that the Court examines those needs of the youth and their families. We are asking them to change, too. To facilitate that, the Court works to provide the necessary tools for them to create that change.

The Court has taken important steps forward in providing progressive programming such as New Paths, Crossover Youth Practice Model, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and other programs that concentrate on substance use, mental health, behavioral and family issues facing so many of our youth.

This Court is committed to continuing to explore new ways to do the work the public has entrusted us to do.

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 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.



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.

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator

The 2012 Summit County Juvenile Court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled \$14,669,711

General Office/Judicial	\$3,291,425	Reclaim Ohio	\$5,049,112	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$3,676,747
Probation/Administration	1,963,548	Title IV-E	693,883	Contract Service	2,493,851
Detention Center	2,729,743	Title XX/PRC	340,000	Other	8,499,113
Total County funding:	\$7,984,716	Other	602,000	Total Expenditures:	\$14,669,711
		Total State/Federal Grant funding:	\$6,684,995		

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

<u>SERVICE PROVIDER</u>	<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
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Day Treatment

East Akron Community House	275,000.00
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Akron UMADAOP	80,000.00
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Electronic Monitoring

Oriana House, Inc.	60,000.00
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Educational Services	80,000.00
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Out of Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter	137,750.00
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Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family	100,000.00
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And Children First Council/Summit County	
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Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement	
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Short Term out of home placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment	236,300.00
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Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT)

Child Guidance & Family Solutions	159,000.00
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Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services

Community Health Center	32,000.00
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Summit County Health District	55,346.00
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Mentoring

CYO and Community Services	25,000.00
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Akron UMADAOP	17,000.00
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Akron Area YMCA	19,500.00
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True North Ministries	2,500.00
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Mental Health Counseling

Child Guidance & Family Solutions	25,000.00
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Competency Evaluations

Summit Psychological Associates	15,000.00
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Community Service/Restitution Program

Funds to victims	50,000.00
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Long Term out of Home Placement

Various Placement Agencies	500,000.00
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Diversion Programming

Distributed in varying amounts to 12	194,576.00
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Police Departments and Sheriff's Office	
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Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program

Village Network	132,000.00
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Parent Advocates for Court Involved Youth

Mental Health America of Summit County	6,000.00
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Youth & Family Counseling

Greenleaf Family Center	45,385.00
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Additional 2012 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, family relationships and the community. ***In 2012, grant funding committed to the Court for special programming totaled \$956,511.00. Sixteen full- and part-time Court positions and several positions for community service providers are supported by these funding streams.*** The programs either fully or partially operated by this funding in 2012 are:

Intensive Probation Supervision, \$31,158: The Court's Probation Officers offer intensive 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 \$3,500: HIV/STD awareness classes were presented to more than 200 youth in detention each week in 2012. 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 2012. ***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, \$315,901.00: Intensive probation and case management services, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and/or cognitive behavioral therapy are delivered in home families of youth who are at the greatest risk of commitment to Department of Youth Service institutions. Approximately 30 youth and their families 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: 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.***

Additional CASA/GAL Program Funding for 2012 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.***

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. A school counselor assists the teaching staff 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 lab has been installed to allow youth to work at their 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, the Detention Facility brings the Summit County library staff in once a week to stock and check books out to youth from the Detention's library.

New positions to the Detention staff are a recreational coordinator who generates grades based on physical education standards and also a mental health social worker who provides crisis intervention, assessment, grief counseling and group counseling to youth in Detention.

The Summit County Juvenile Court entered into contract with the American Correctional Association (ACA) to pursue Accreditation of the Detention Facility. The American Correctional Association is the largest and oldest international correctional professional association in the world. Receiving an accreditation award from ACA would be endorsement of the Court's commitment to excellence.

This year, the Court opened a new unit geared toward Cognitive Behavior Therapy which houses juveniles in a residential setting for 90 days. Additionally, a master gardener has been working part-time with youth in Detention, teaching them how to grow fresh fruits and vegetables. This program introduces the detention youth to gardening skills. The vegetables harvested are used in the new salad bar introduced in the Detention cafeteria in 2012 to provide a more nutritional meal. The flowers are planted in areas throughout the Dan Street campus.

In 2012:

- **1,796** juveniles were brought into the 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.
- **801** juveniles were held in the detention facility; 583 were males and 218 were females.
- **995** juveniles were released through the admissions process. Of the 995, **929** were released through the aforementioned admission process which consists of having the Detention Risk Assessment completed and the juvenile scoring below 23 points. **66** 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 55.56 youth.
- The average bed days in Detention were **13.72 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 26 juveniles who had motions filed to have them bound over to the adult system. 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.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, County Coordinator

In 2012, Summit County Juvenile Court began its second year as an Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detentions Alternative Initiative (JDAI) site. In 2010, Summit County Juvenile Court was selected by the Ohio Department of Youth Services to participate in this initiative, which is committed to serving the best interests of our children through outreach, intervention and innovative programming without compromising public safety. JDAI was designed to support the Casey Foundation's vision that all youth involved in the juvenile justice system have opportunities to develop into healthy, productive adults. Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, previously recognized by the Casey Foundation as a Champion for Change Award winner in 2010, embraced the Casey core strategies, and immediately called upon the community to partner with the Court by strengthening existing relationships and creating new collaborations within the community.

Currently, there are seven JDAI community committees which support the Court's efforts:

- 1) **Case Processing:** Concentrates on streamlining case processing and alleviating unnecessary delays.
- 2) **Conditions of Confinement:** Explores ways to reduce overcrowding of secured detention and enhancing current conditions to better meet the youth's needs.
- 3) **Data:** Charged with objective data analysis to guide detention and policy reform.
- 4) **Detention Alternatives:** Seeks new or enhanced non-secure alternatives to detention for lower-risk youth who are not best served by being detained in a secured setting.
- 5) **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC):** Committed to reducing racial/ethnic disparities by utilizing community leadership and partnerships and comprehensive community strategies when considering juvenile justice reform.
- 6) **Executive Committee:** Comprised of key juvenile justice and child welfare stakeholders coordinating detention reform activities and collaborating to identify detention alternatives without compromising public safety.
- 7) **Risk Assessment Instrument:** Works on the development and implementation of a Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) to allow objective screening of youth to determine which youth can be safely supervised in the community.

For more information about the JDAI initiative, or on how to become involved, please contact Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Summit County JDAI Coordinator, at 330.643.2446 or visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at aecf.org.

JDAI Mission Statement

With the assistance and guidance of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative through the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the community of Summit County will work together to:

Enhance and improve the Juvenile Justice system in Summit County to meet the best interests of children and keep our community safe; to improve the variety and availability of community resources to meet the needs of children and families involved in the Juvenile Justice System and to improve outcomes for all children; to limit the use of detention for children to those instances when necessary to assure the safety of the child or community or to secure the child's attendance for Court; to use available data to make decisions regarding the use of detention and services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Clerk's Office

Lori Favalon, 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 2012 the Clerk's office filed **6,781** new cases. The breakdown by type is as follows:

- ☐ Delinquency: **2,926**
- ☐ Unruly: **363**
- ☐ Traffic: **1,549**
- ☐ Adult: **823**
- ☐ Dependent/Neglected/Abused: **1,120**
Custody/Visitation/All Others

In 2012, the Clerks office collected a total of **\$245,030**. Of this amount, **\$6,540** was received for the payment of fines and costs in delinquency, unruly or adult cases; **\$72,562** was collected for traffic fines and costs, Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund and Indigent Defense Support Fund; **\$11,979.08** was collected for restitution; **\$146,573.97** was collected for computer and legal research, special fees, victims of crime, county and clerk fees, indigent application fees, credit card fees and attorney fee reimbursement; **\$7,375** was collected for the Staying Accident Free Through Education (SAFTE) Program, a driver intervention program.

Psychology Services

Dr. Thomas Webb, Staff Psychologist

The Psychology Department provides forensic evaluations to the Court along with clinical and crisis management services to the Detention Center. During 2012, there were 219 detainees interviewed for their risk of suicide. There were 182 Court referrals for clinical, psychological evaluations. Of these, 14 were involved in determination of amenability for transfer to the adult system. Dr. Webb facilitates the forensic training for Fellows in child and adolescent psychiatry at Akron Children's Hospital. Support to the community for implementation of conferences and other teaching opportunities were also provided.

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 2012, the department received 4,130 **referrals** that included 5,573 **counts**. This included **2,600 youth** referred to Court dockets. The breakdown of the charges consisted of **567 felonies**, **3,223 misdemeanors**, and **757 status offenses**. 669 cases were handled unofficially, without formal filing. The department continues to see a drop in the number of felony offenses but a slight overall rise in referrals. 2012 also saw the beginning of the Truancy Mediation program which allowed certain truancy and/or failure to send cases to be assigned directly to a mediator in the Family Resource Center. This has allowed the Court's truancy Magistrate to focus more attention to the youth and families that continue to struggle with attendance issues.

The Intake Department collaborated with the Family Resource Center to overhaul the Such Is Life program. A new venture, T.E.A.M.S. (Teens Empowered through Accountability and Management Skills), began taking referrals in 2012. The department served 91 clients and looks forward to continuing this collaboration. This program is open to all Court departments and may also be used as a sanction for diversion cases. T.E.A.M.S. is facilitated by Catholic Charities/Greenleaf with sessions held at the Court.

Intake continues to see significant change in case processing related to JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative). In 2012, the department was able to access beds at Safe Landing Shelter Homes to house youth charged with domestic violence. This is an alternative to admission to secure detention. Youth are transported there and then returned to Court for their hearing the following day. Youth may remain in a Safe Landing bed under this initiative a total of seven days. Families must meet with Safe Landing staff and counsel there to transition home pending the final outcome of the Court.

Traditional Probation Department

Curtis Howard, Chief Probation Officer

The Probation Department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of 676 cases in 2012, which included 379 new assignments and 297 cases that were carried over from 2011. These totals include Traditional and Intensive probation cases. The monthly average for new assignments was approximately 31 cases per month. The number of cases served this year 676, is less than the previous year of 816. In 2012, 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 2012 was approximately 31 cases for each Probation Officer, is slightly less than the previous year. The Probation staff consists of 13 Probation Officers, two Probation Community Workers, three Case Managers, a Probation Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant and the Chief Probation Officer.

In 2012, the Probation Department assisted 91 victims to recover over \$30,000 in restitution that was paid directly to victims. Probationers also worked over 2,000 hours in Community Service in Summit County.

Of the 29 youth who committed or revoked to the Ohio Department of Youth Services in 2012 calendar year, only 14 were on Probation at the time they were committed, which is approximately 48% of the commitments and revocations. In 2012 the number cases transferred to the General Division of The Common Pleas to the adult court increased to 18 up from 10 a year ago. Of the 18 cases bound over 6 were on probation at the time were transferred over. Three hundred thirty eight (368) cases were successfully terminated from probation supervision in 2012.

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" groups 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 TEODOSIO EARNS THREE AWARDS IN THREE MONTHS

Henry Taube said, "One of our rewards is the approval of our work by our peers." Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio reaped such rewards twice in a span of two months. And, for good measure, she added the prestigious Impact Award from The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation on December 12th.

On October 4th Judge Teodosio was recognized by the Ohio Association of Magistrates with its Judicial Award at a presentation in Columbus. Judge Teodosio was cited for "outstanding service and contribution to Ohio's Judicial System as both Magistrate and Judge."

Judge Teodosio served as a Magistrate in the early 1990's in Akron Municipal Court before her election as Judge of the Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court in 1997 and as Juvenile Court Judge in 2002.

"Judge Teodosio is highly regarded by the members of the Magistrates Association," said Summit County Juvenile Court Magistrate Thomas Freeman. "Not only was she given the award for her past work as a Magistrate, but as a Judge she has always been supportive of her Magistrates and the state-wide association."

Two months later, also in Columbus, Judge Teodosio was honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges. She was cited for "extraordinary contributions to the association and to the system of justice."

Judge Teodosio was nominated by Lake County Juvenile Court Judge Karen Lawson. In her nomination, she stated that Judge Teodosio "believes the Juvenile Court System needs to give every child every chance to receive the guidance necessary to return to society as a contributing member with a renewed outlook toward achieving a better quality of life. With her leadership and innovative programming, Judge Teodosio is winning back lives in Ohio."

Judge Lawson got to learn Judge Teodosio's judicial methods first-hand.

"She was my mentor Judge when I was elected in 2009," said Judge Lawson. "She was compassionate, but I also noted that she could be strict when necessary. When I visited her Court, she detailed the programs she developed and from that I was able to use them as models for similar programs at our Court."



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio receives the Judicial Award from Ohio Association of Magistrates President Mark Huberman.



Judge Teodosio is joined by Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation Communications Coordinator Vicki Doecker and Foundation President Rick Kellar after receiving the Impact Award for Innovation.

In fact, it was Judge Teodosio's outside-the-box thinking that impressed the Selection Committee.

"Judge Teodosio has introduced so many progressive programs to her community and she has been so generous to our association with her comprehensive and informative presentations," said Butler County Juvenile Court Judge Kathleen Romans, who served as Chairperson of the Selection Committee. "From all accounts, she is a stellar Judge and she was a unanimous choice of the committee for this award."

Her innovative programming addressing the mental health issues of youth was at the center of her Impact Award for Innovation from the Morgan Foundation, which stated, "Judge Teodosio is an eloquent and genuine spokesperson for how system reform and innovation can go hand-in-hand with accountability and community safety."

It is very gratifying to be considered by your fellow jurists and your community as doing a good job," said Judge Teodosio. "But while my name might be on the plaques, these awards are actually the acknowledgment of the good work done by the Juvenile Court staff and our community partners who collaborate so willingly with the initiatives the Court has implemented."

Offender Specific Unit

Terry Walton, Felony Disposition Supervisor

Three full-time Probation Officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor comprise the Offender Specific Unit (OSU). 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 2012, 31 youth were referred to this department, reflecting a decrease of five youth from 2011. 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. The 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. This unit co-facilitates three treatment groups each week, including a group which serves youth with developmental disabilities. In addition, this unit offers “Wise Guys” and “Smart Girls” as alternatives for less serious offenders. Teaching empathy and social skills remains a high priority in the unit’s treatment model. This is achieved through assigned “Amends” projects, group counseling and community service work.

In 2012, the Offender Specific Unit continued to provide a “Parent Group” in collaboration with Child Guidance and Family Solutions. The parent group meets regularly to provide education, support and guidance to parents of offenders. In addition, this unit provided 17 educational presentations to Police Diversion Units, school districts and various community support organizations.

OSU 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

Jessica Heropulos, Program Supervisor

Crossroads probation is a co-occurring specialty docket program court that, by design is focused on treatment interventions for youth who have been identified as having a dual substance abuse and mental health diagnosis. Crossroads is an intensive probation service, and is typically a yearlong commitment. Youth admitted to Crossroads earn the dismissal of their charges at the end of their probation if they successfully meet all their treatment goals and probation orders.

Crossroads holds weekly review hearings with the designated Crossroads Magistrate allowing for immediate rewards and consequences. Crossroads is incentive based with an emphasis on accountability. The program consists of a unit Supervisor, four Probation Officers, a part time Clerk/Bailiff and a half time Community Worker. Crossroads also contracts with an Attorney Guardian ad Litem who provides legal representation to each youth throughout the entire duration of the program.

The Crossroads program relies immensely on community collaboration. The Probation Officers met bi-weekly with community treatment providers to staff cases and assure continuity of care.

Crossroads underwent some transition in 2012, with the promotion of Lisa DiSabato-Moore to the position of Special Programs Administrator. Jessica Heropulos, a Crossroads Probation Officer of 10 years, was promoted to Crossroads Supervisor.

During 2012, Crossroads admitted 48 families. Forty youth were released from supervision and a total of 88 families were served throughout the year.

New Paths is specialized intervention probation service designed to address the needs of youth with a developmental disability or cognitive delay and who have a juvenile justice related delinquency issue. The Crossroads Probation Officers are also responsible for serving the New Paths families and act as Intake worker, Probation Officer and Case Manager. New Paths' purpose is to provide tools to the family and assist with navigating the juvenile justice system, as well as providing linkage with community providers for services. Once a worker is assigned to a New Paths family, they remain the worker throughout their entire involvement at the Court.

Of particular interest this year was the completion of a national research study, funded by the National Institute of Justice, and completed by Policy Research Associates of Delmar, New York. This project, which began in 2010, has been seeking to determine the effectiveness of juvenile mental health courts, and is the first of its kind in the nation. The Court is looking forward in 2013 to the release of the findings of this study, which will bring national attention to the Crossroads program.

Family Resource Center

Lisa Karas, Program Coordinator

Now in its seventh 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 but not limited to: teen parenting, truancy and related school issues, community re-entry, unruly behavior 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 700 clients (youth and adults) in the Summit County area in 2012. Using a case management platform, the FRC case managers partner with clients to assess their needs, refer them to community service providers, problem solve, and provide monitoring, and support along with an array of special in-house programming offered at the Court and in the community which includes:

The ***School-to-Work Program*** which assists in preparing youth by encouraging school attendance and preparation for work. The FRC works closely with the Tri-County Jobs for Ohio Graduates' Next Step initiative at the Summit County Job Center to meet program goals. The FRC Case Managers offer supportive case management services to youth involved in services through the Summit County Job Center. Youth who are referred to this program must be at least 16 years of age and display an interest in working on job readiness and employability skills.

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 2012, the FRC expanded the Enrichment Program to include tutoring services. Tutoring has continued in 2012. The tutors are students from The University of Akron Education Department who are at the Court fulfilling their internship requirement.

During the 2012 year The Family Resource Center continued to offer the Responder Program. In 2011 the FRC case managers were providing case management in 12 middle schools in the Summit County area. In 2012 the FRC expanded this program to include 21 schools, including elementary schools and high schools in the Summit County area. The Responder Program strives to provide case management services to youth who are struggling with truancy issues, behavior issues, academic issues and/or mental health concerns, before this behavior results in a referral to Juvenile Court. Most clients involved in the Responder Program have seen success in decreasing truancy, decreasing negative behavior at school and have improved their academic performance, while avoiding a referral to the Court. Community, parental, and school support and collaboration are key factors in the success of this program.

The Truancy Mediation Program entered its second year. A mediator (case manager), mediates on cases in which a youth and or parent have been referred to Juvenile Court for Truancy or Failure To Send. 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. In 2012, the mediation program expanded to include all of Summit County Schools in which youth and their family met program criteria. The program continues to see a high rate of success in diverting truancy and Failure to Send cases, and successfully addressing in those cases the truancy and Failure to Send issues.

The collaborations with our community partners allow the FRC to maximize its collective resources. Through a partnership with Cleveland Catholic Charities and Greenleaf Family Center, the FRC hosted T.E.A.M.S. (Teens Empowered through Accountability and Management Skills). This is a four week program provides life skills that will empower teens, hold them accountable for their behavior and actions, and help them manage in all aspects of life. T.E.A.M.S. replaced the "Such Is Life", Independent Living 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 abuse, 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 by grants from the Victims of Crime Act, the State Victims Assistance Act, Nation 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 Summit County Volunteer Board contributed an additional \$138,870 through fundraising and grant writing activities from a host of national, state and local resources to be used for CASA/GAL Program volunteer training/recruitment and general operations.

The CASA/GAL Department consists of 12 staff members. During 2012, the staff and approximately **230 volunteer child** advocates provided a voice for **853 dependent, abused or neglected children** in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of children it serves ranks as **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

Steve Stahl, 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 Court policy. 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 **165 juveniles** that took part in the Child Responsibility Project, **completing 6,816 hours** worked and earning **\$47,709.00** 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 2012, **884** juveniles completed community service which had been ordered. The completed community service hours in 2012 were **7,485**.

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.

Jane Hutmacher Named Volunteer of the Year

She was among the first guests to arrive at the Court's Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 2nd, but she was the last one to suspect that the day would bring to her some pleasant, unexpected and much-deserved acknowledgment.

Jane Hutmacher is a member of the Women's Board to the Juvenile Court, a volunteer organization committed to service to the Court. Whether it is volunteering for Traffic Court, providing Treat Nights



Women's Board member Jane Hutmacher (center) with Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio (right) and Chief Deputy Clerk Lori Favalon after Ms. Hutmacher was named the Court's 2012 Volunteer of the Year.

and other diversions for youth in Detention or providing funding for training and other projects implemented by the Court, the Women's Board's unwavering support is always evident. Jane Hutmacher embodies that spirit and commitment. Since 1993, she has been a staple at the Court. Whether it's as a Traffic Court volunteer, microfilming or setting up events for staff, Jane is always there with her wonderful demeanor and smile.

In her introduction revealing Ms. Hutmacher as the 2012 honoree, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio noted, "What makes her special is not only her reliability, but her amiability. She approaches her duties with purpose and practicality."

Ms. Hutmacher is the third member of the Women's Board to be so honored as Volunteer of the Year, joining Carol Kohar (2007) and Ruth Dodridge (2009).

Other honorees have been: Nancy Patton, from the Citizens Review Board (2006), Linda Sinar from the CASA/GAL Program (2008), Becky Retzer, from True North Ministries (2010), and Patty Harris, from the CASA/GAL Program (2011).

Four Named Employees of the Year

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio announced the Juvenile Court's High Point Award winners at a ceremony the morning of May 30th in the Court's 1st Floor Conference Room. The High Point Award recognizes Employees of the Year from each county government office as part of Employee Recognition Week.

The winners from the Court for 2011-12 were BHJJ Case Manager William Davis, Judicial Assistant Sarah DeLeo, Re-entry Program Case Manager Donald Lomax and Felony Disposition Supervisor Terry Walton.

Mr. Davis was cited for his persistence and creative problem solving while working with youth and their families.

Ms. DeLeo was recognized for taking on additional responsibilities after a colleague experienced a family emergency and did so seamlessly and professionally.

Mr. Lomax was lauded for developing a new program and making it work by making the at-risk youth with which he works believe they accomplish more than they dared dream.

Mr. Walton, a 38-year staff member, has worked in many positions at the Court, but he has developed a statewide reputation for his expertise in the RECLAIM Ohio program, which is vital to Court funding. Through his efforts, the routinely receives top-tier ranking in the state, which yields the Court a substantial part of available RECLAIM funds.



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio (center) with the recipients of the 2012 High Point Awards, signifying them as the Court's Employees of the Year. They are, from left, BHJJ Case Manager William Davis, Re-entry Program Case Manager Donald Lomax, Felony Disposition Supervisor Terry Walton and Judicial Assistant Sarah DeLeo.

The 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 2011, the Women's Board approved a substantial grant to the Court which will facilitate 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. That renovation was completed and the units opened in 2012. The program is taking shape and the results have been encouraging. It would not have been possible without the generosity of the Women's Board.

In the past year, the Women's Board again logged over 4,000 volunteer hours at the Court. Three of its members, including current members Ruth Dodridge (2009) and this year's honoree Jane Hutmacher, 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 2012, **38** active volunteers from **13** high schools participated in **18** Teen Court hearings.

2012 Accomplishments Under the Leadership of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

JDAI Initiative Moves Forward: The Court continued its Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). This Court and Courts in four other Ohio counties, along with the Ohio Department of Youth Services, entered into an agreement with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to participate in the initiative in early 2010. A group of local experts and community volunteers completed an assessment of Detention operations in various areas. From the recommendations of this group the Court created a JDAI Assessment Action Plan. The first recommendation enacted from the plan was to hire a Detention Mental Health Social Worker. Hilary Finkel was hired in that capacity to provide crisis intervention, de-escalation, develop behavior plans, suicide intervention as well as working with parents of youth in Detention to coordinate mental health services upon release. Additionally, the Court further addressed the physical fitness needs of youth in Detention with the hiring of Nicholas Nagle. He works daily with youth to develop fitness plans and projects designed to enhance their physical fitness while in Detention and to promote awareness of the importance of a physical fitness regimen after they leave Detention. The Court also introduced enhanced food service by introducing a nutritional salad bar during dinner and Kent State University art students developed an art program for youth in Detention. Adding to the Action Plan, the Court took important steps to reduce scheduling delays by providing legal counsel to those who cannot afford it at the earliest possible point in their Court involvement. By providing representation during the initial hearing and beyond, it expedites the process more efficiently. The Summit County Legal Defender's Office is providing that service.

CBT Unit Opens: With the generous assistance of the Women's Board, the Court was able to open a wing in Detention where youth placed in the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy group would be housed. The youth in the CBT unit have been identified as the most at-risk youth in Detention facing the longest terms of stay. The youth in the CBT unit have the usual educational and physical fitness regimen as other youth placed elsewhere in Detention, but they also undergo extensive group and individual therapy and education designed for them to better handle and respond to situations that heretofore led to the unlawful behavior that brought them to Detention.

Court Implements CYPM: There are times when youth and families become Court-involved in both the delinquency (DL) and dependency, neglect and abuse (DN) side. These young people are termed, "crossover youth." Recognizing that, the Court adopted the Crossover Youth Practice Model developed by Casey Family Programs and Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute. The aim is to provide continuity as both cases navigate through the Court process. All Court hearings involving crossover youth and their family members will be conducted in front of the same Magistrate. That Magistrate will make decisions on both DL and DN cases.

RECLAIM Ohio Ranking Maintained: For the fifth 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, during fiscal year 2012, there were 1,854, or 20%, less bed-days used than in 2011. As a result, in 2012, the Court yielded \$3.788 million, or a 12% share, of available RECLAIM funds from the State of Ohio.

The Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court*

Bruce Alexander
Dawne Alford
Akaree Anderson
Zackary Anderson
Chariti Armstead
Rebecca Armstrong
Tia Autrey

Kenzie Barclay
Tammy Barnes
Crystal Bell
Terry Bendo
Linda Bennett
Christine Berbelis

Kathy Bertsch
Bob Bickett
Jamie Blair
Jennifer Bond
Jon Booher
Stephanie Borak
Max Briggs
Welby Broadbudd

Kimberly Brooks
Christine Brown
Sandra Brown
Bryan Bryce
Mary Burney
Adrien Burton
Alex Byard

Lorrie Campbell
Beth Cardina
Ben Carro
Melissa Carson
Richard Cash
Kielan Cherry
Brad Christman
Luv Chounramany
Roslyn Clark
Sandra Coddington
Daniel Cody
Renee Conlon
Laconia Crandall
Kelli Crawford-Smith
Amber Crowe

Stanley Davis
Bill Davis
Sarah DeLeo
Lisa DiSabato-Moore
Carmen Dorman

Lisa Eagle
Todd Eisenman
Cheryl Evans
Tatanina Evans

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Tremain Fields

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Perry James
Kaneesha Johnson
Michael Johnson
Nate Johnson

Tammy Johnson
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Lavel Jones
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Kristen Kaludy
Lisa Karas
Allen Kelly
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Dante Ursetti
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James Whited
Tim Wilkes
Kevin Williams
Tracy Williams
Steve Williamson
Carman Wilson
Jane Wilson
Eddie Winstead
Tiffany Worthy
Quin Wychanko

Tiffany Yanulaitis
Joshua Young

Joan Zito

* list includes part-time employees, employees who worked a portion of 2009 at the Court and interns.



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