

NEWSLETTER

THE COURT REPORTER

SUMMIT COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

**Community Programs****Attorney Help Desk**

Wednesdays | 9 - 11:45 a.m.
 Virtual & In-Person Appointments
 No Cost | Walk-Ins Welcome
 To schedule a virtual appointment
 visit, <https://juvenilecourt.summitoh.net/index.php/legal-services/attorney-help-desk>.

Human Trafficking 101

March 8, 2022 | 5 - 6:15 p.m.
 Youth Only
 April 12, 2022 | 5 - 6:15 p.m.
 Parents & Guardians Only
 To schedule a virtual presentation
 at no cost email,
fdaniels@cpccourt.summitoh.net.

The Parent Project

Beginning: April 14, 2022
 Thursdays | 6 p.m. | In-Person
 10 Class Sessions | No Cost
 To register or to make a referral to
 The Parent Project email,
tpp@cpccourt.summitoh.net.

A Message from Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio welcomes a therapy dog to SCJC, Meet Tater Tot!

I take great pride in welcoming Tater Tot, a professional therapy dog, to Summit County Juvenile Court. Tater Tot's role at the court will be to provide comfort and support to children participating in court proceedings.

Tater Tot is a highly trained assistance animal that understands approximately 56 commands. Outside of court proceedings, the three-and-a-half-year-old Border Collie mix will be working alongside his owner and handler Geoff Auerbach.

Auerbach is a licensed social worker who is employed by the Summit County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program, an organization located on the 2nd floor of Summit County Juvenile Court.

The Summit County CASA Program works to protect and advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected and dependent children involved in the Summit County child welfare system.

Prior to being acquired by Auerbach, Tater Tot completed an 18-month training program, facilitated by Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education & Services, while being fostered by an inmate program participant at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility in Kansas.

"Tater Tot has been trained to provide comfort and companionship to individuals he senses to be in emotional distress," said Geoff Auerbach. "His ability to put people at ease never ceases to amaze me!"



Participating in court proceedings can be an extremely emotional and stressful experience for children. The more that we can do to alleviate the stress and apprehension they feel, the more likely we are to obtain the information needed to make difficult and sometimes life-altering decisions.

That being said, I would like to thank Geoff Auerbach and the Summit County CASA Program for presenting the court with this incredible resource!

Sincerely,

Linda Tucci Teodosio

Specialized Dockets

Supreme Court of Ohio recertifies specialized dockets operated by SCJC

The Supreme Court of Ohio's Commission on Specialized Dockets recently voted in favor of recertifying the specialized dockets being operated by Summit County Juvenile Court.

Local courts operating certified specialized dockets in Ohio are required to apply for recertification every three years, undergo a site visit and provide specific program materials in response to certification standards that went into effect in January 2014.

Supreme Court of Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor congratulated Summit County Juvenile Court and Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio on achieving recertification.

"Specialized dockets divert participants toward criminal justice initiatives that employ tools and tailored services to treat and rehabilitate the offender so they can become productive members of society," stated Chief Justice O'Connor. "Studies have shown this approach works by reducing recidivism while saving tax dollars."

Specialized dockets are courts that are dedicated to specific types of participants and use a combination of different techniques for holding participants accountable while also addressing the underlying causes of their behavior.

There are more than 210 specialized dockets in Ohio courts. The three specialized dockets being operated by Summit County Juvenile Court include:

- **Crossroads:** a specialized docket dedicated to cases involving youth who are participating in an intensive probation program for juvenile offenders with mental health diagnosis, a substance abuse disorder or both (dual diagnosis).
- **Family Reunification through Recovery Court:** a specialized court docket for court-involved families that addresses substance misuse and other family challenges for the purpose of family reunification.
- **Restore Court:** a specialized docket program that exists to divert juvenile victims of human trafficking and those at high risk from the justice system to a safe, supportive, and comprehensive system of restorative care.

For more information on the specialized dockets being operated by Summit County Juvenile Court visit, juvenilecourt.summitoh.net.



Take a Book. Share a Book.

Little Free Library installed at Summit County Juvenile Court

A Little Free Library was recently installed inside the main lobby at Summit County Juvenile Court, located at 650 Dan Street in Akron.

The book sharing box was donated to Summit County Juvenile Court by Geoff Auerbach, of the Summit County CASA Program, with assistance from a private benefactor.



The purpose of the library is to increase book accessibility to readers of all ages, communities and socio-economic backgrounds.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that strives to be a catalyst for building community and increasing book access through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book exchanges.

For more information visit, littlefreelibrary.org. To donate a book to the Summit County Juvenile Court Little Free Library email, gauerbach@cpccourt.summitoh.net.



The Court Reporter is a publication of Summit County Juvenile Court, located at 650 Dan Street, Akron, Ohio 44310.

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

For more information about the topics covered in this edition call, 330-643-2936.

juvenilecourt.summitoh.net