



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

---

SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, JUVENILE DIVISION

# Leadership

Linda Tucci Teodosio  
**Judge**

Robert McCarty  
**Chief Magistrate**

Daniel Cody  
Amber Crowe  
David Fish  
Thomas Freeman  
Brett Hammond  
Laura Lynd-Robinson  
Douglas McDougal  
Mary Ann Mendlik  
Milton Rankins  
Rita Rochford  
Lee Ann Schaffer  
Angela Walls-Alexander  
**Magistrates**

Robert Bickett  
**Court Administrator**

David Horner  
**Assistant Court Administrator**

Curtis Howard  
**Assistant Court Administrator**

Woody Tyrrell  
**Grants Administrator**

Melissa Gerney  
**Superintendent**



Summit County Juvenile Court  
650 Dan Street | Akron | Ohio 44310

[juvenilecourt.summitoh.net](http://juvenilecourt.summitoh.net)  
330-643-2900



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

# A message from Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



I take great pride in presenting the Summit County Juvenile Court's 2022 Annual Report to citizens.

This report features facts, figures, and significant achievements my administration has made throughout the past calendar year and provides an accounting of the funds allocated to Summit County Juvenile Court.

Highlights from 2022 include:

- Coordinating 238 interpreter assignments for non-English speaking court-involved citizens, 116 more than in 2021 (95% increase). The need for Nepali-speaking interpreters increased from 68 assignments in 2021 to 133 assignments in 2022.
- Hiring a veterans resource case manager to promote positive outcomes for military veterans involved in child welfare cases. Summit County Juvenile Court was the first juvenile court in the State of Ohio to focus on serving veterans and military families. In addition to offering support and encouragement to veterans as they navigate the court system and work toward family reunification, the veterans resource case manager also counsels court-involved youth who express an interest in joining the military.
- Piloting the expansion of the State of Ohio's first multidisciplinary representation team. Summit County Juvenile Court's Multidisciplinary Representation Team was initially assembled to include three attorneys specializing in child welfare law, a case coordinator with a background in social work, and a parent advocate with lived child welfare experience. Since the pilot's inception in 2021, the team has expanded to include nine attorneys, two-case coordinators, and two-parent advocates. Together, the team of 13 works to improve and expedite positive outcomes for children and parents involved in the child welfare system.
- Welcoming Tater Tot, a professional therapy dog, to Summit County Juvenile Court. Tater Tot's role at the court is to provide comfort and support to children participating in court proceedings. Tater Tot is a highly trained assistance animal that understands approximately 56 commands.

2022 will be remembered as the year I was named the longest-serving juvenile court judge in Summit County history. I want to thank the citizens of Summit County for entrusting me with this position for so long. I plan on completing my fourth term (2021-2026) in office with the same level of commitment and enthusiasm I had when I first took office in 2003.

Sincerely,

*Linda Tucci Teodosio*



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*



# Financial Statement

## County, State, and Federal Funding

### County Funding

General Office/Judicial .....	\$2,703,408
Probation/Administration .....	\$2,026,441
Summit County Juvenile Detention Center .....	\$3,202,092
Total .....	\$7,931,941

### State & Federal Grant Funding

CASA Volunteer Board .....	\$97,551
National CASA .....	\$21,062
National School Lunch Program .....	\$63,613
Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy .....	\$129,292
RECLAIM Ohio .....	\$5,049,228
State Victims Assistance .....	\$3,286
Summit County ADM Detention MH Services .....	\$245,346
Supreme Court of Ohio MRT .....	\$149,730
TANF XX Family Resource Center .....	\$642,362
Title IV-E .....	\$380,922
Title XX Guardian ad Litem .....	\$536,931
Title XX/TANF Job Reentry .....	\$115,000
Victims of Crime .....	\$86,842
Victims of Human Trafficking .....	\$188,640
Total .....	\$7,709,805

### Expenditures

Contract Services .....	\$2,208,751
Personnel/Salaries & Benefits .....	\$12,750,347
Other .....	\$682,648
Total .....	\$15,641,746



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

# Contract Service Providers

## Supported by State and Federal Funding

### Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program

The Village Network ..... \$139,828

### Community Service/Restitution Program

Funds to Victims ..... \$8,115

### Competency Evaluations

Lighthouse Family Center ..... \$16,316

Summit Psychological Associates ..... \$3,800

### Diversion Programming

Police Departments and Summit Co. Sheriff's Office ..... \$197,000

*\*Distributed in varying amounts to 10 local law enforcement agencies.*

### Electronic Monitoring

Oriana House, Inc. .... \$122,820

### Long-Term Out-of-Home Placement

Various Placement Agencies ..... \$248,559

### Mentoring

Akron Area Y.M.C.A. .... \$19,460

Akron U.M.A.D.A.O.P. .... \$2,920

RAHAB Ministries ..... \$27,120

Young Scholars Mentoring Center ..... \$8,200

### Out-of-Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter ..... \$98,550

Summit County Family & Children First Council (FCFC) ..... \$131,084

*\*Summit County Juvenile Court's share of the FCFC/Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement.*

### Short-Term Out-of-Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment ..... \$41,825

### Youth & Family Counseling

Greenleaf Family Center ..... \$73,000



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

# Grant Funding

## Creating, Maintaining, and Expanding Court Programming

### Federal Title XX/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Funding

CASA/GAL Child Advocate Team .....	\$536,931
Family Resource Center .....	\$642,362
Jobs Reentry Program .....	\$115,000
Restore Court .....	\$188,640



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

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

Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice .....	\$304,847
--	-----------

*\*Grants administered in collaboration with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board.*

### Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Specialized Docket Funding

Crossroads, Family Reunification through Recovery Court, and Restore Court .....	\$129,292
--	-----------

*\*The Supreme Court of Ohio has certified the specialized dockets above. Grants are administered by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services under Ohio House Bill 483.*



### Supreme Court of Ohio Grants

Multidisciplinary Legal Representation .....	\$149,730
--	-----------



### VOCA/SVAA Grants for Advocates

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) .....	\$86,842
State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) .....	\$3,286

*\*The grants above were awarded to the CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court. Grants administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. To view additional CASA/GAL funding sources, see page 10.*



**“Grant funding committed to the court for special programming/projects in 2022 totaled \$2,205,354. Thirty-one full-time and part-time court positions and several positions/programs for partnering community service providers are supported through these funding streams.”**

**Woody Tyrrell, Grants Administrator**  
Summit County Juvenile Court



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

# Summit County Juvenile Court Clerk's Office

## 2022 Fund Collections

Summit County Juvenile Court Clerk's Office 2022 Fund Collections	Total
Payments of Fines and Costs in Delinquency, Unruly or Adult Cases.	\$970.00
Traffic Fines and Costs, Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund, Indigent Defense Support Fund, and Legal Aid Society Fund	\$57,958.42
Restitution	\$2,632.72
Computer and Legal Research, Special Fees, Victims of Crime, County and Clerk Fees, Indigent Application Fees, and Credit Card Fees	\$66,864.18
Staying Accident-Free through Education (SAFTE) Program	\$5,150.00
Merchant Services	\$3,656.51
Total	\$137,231.83

## Highlight

In October 2022, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio hired a veterans resource case manager at Summit County Juvenile Court. The role of the veterans resource case manager is to promote positive outcomes for military veterans involved in child welfare cases.

Cox, a United States Air Force veteran with 18 years of service, accepted the position. Cox has been charged with the responsibility of helping veterans, and their family members, access military benefits and supportive services such as counseling, financial assistance, health care, housing, support groups, transportation services, and more.

"Beyond his vast experience as a veteran, Andrew brings great enthusiasm," said Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. "He has a genuine desire to help his fellow veterans leverage resources and, most importantly, help them reunite with their families."

In addition to offering support and encouragement to veterans as they navigate the court system and work toward family reunification, Cox also counsels court-involved youth who are interested in joining the military.

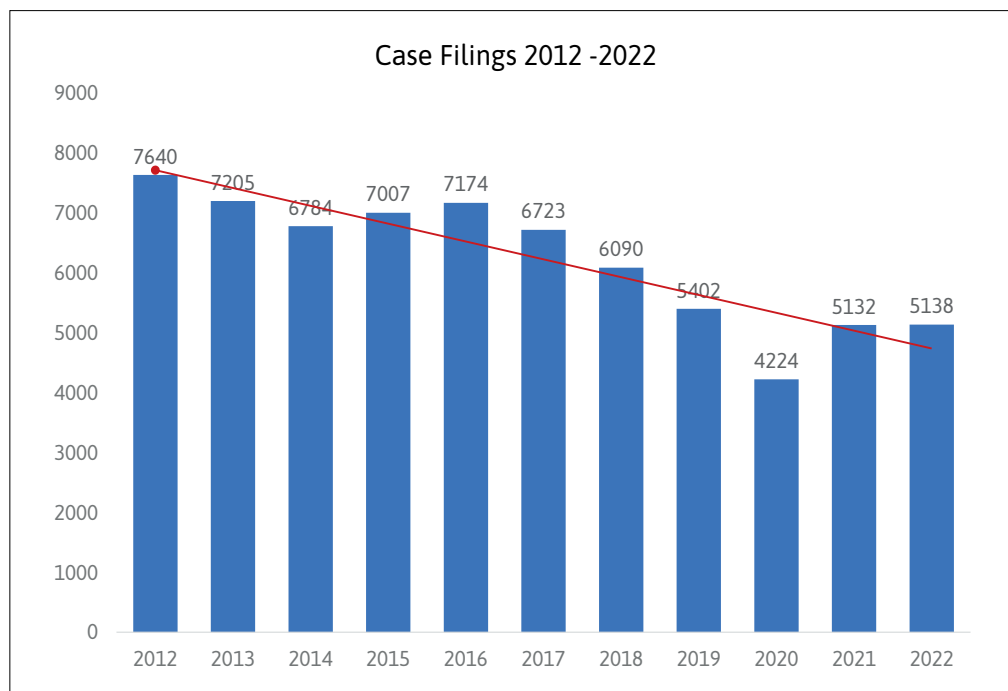


**Summit County Juvenile Court  
Veterans Resource Case Manager  
Andrew Cox**

# New Case Filings

## Data Trends and Fund Collections

Case Types	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Traffic	1549	1625	1458	1442	1441	1591	1292	1207	1142	1201	1165
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	805	832	843	915	1062	1022	1289	1030	880	1019	1105
Delinquency	3064	2682	2591	2700	2687	2232	1626	1429	925	1050	1074
Truancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	439	557	927	653
Unofficial	902	776	703	664	655	884	1016	503	390	322	403
Unruly	401	283	259	253	257	244	349	287	182	320	391
Failure to Send	420	492	431	607	532	277	102	123	52	191	250
Grandparent	123	165	148	88	129	127	85	98	65	63	61
Protection Order	33	30	34	40	43	28	33	24	12	28	30
Contributing <sup>*Adult</sup>	17	13	19	15	12	10	13	7	9	6	3
Permanent Surrender	14	14	10	11	13	9	7	4	4	5	3
Legal Custody	312	293	288	272	343	299	278	251	6	-	-
Total	7640	7205	6784	7007	7174	6723	6090	5402	4224	5132	5138



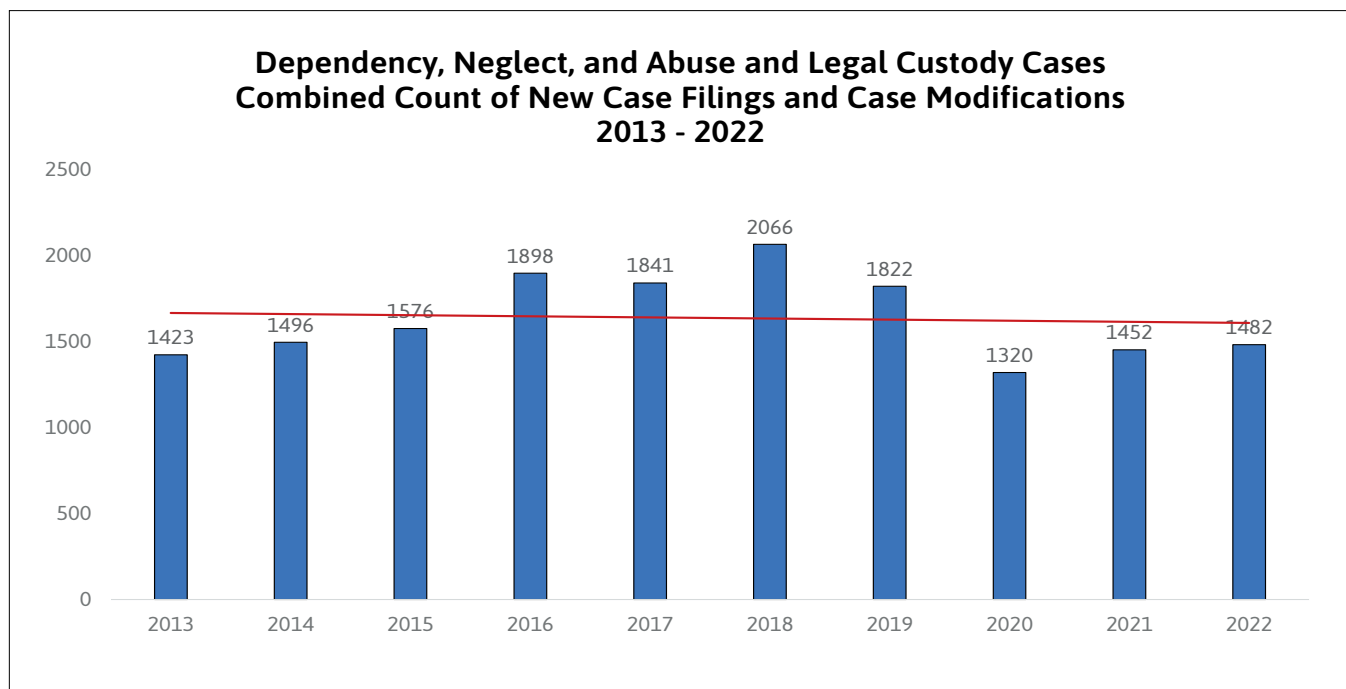
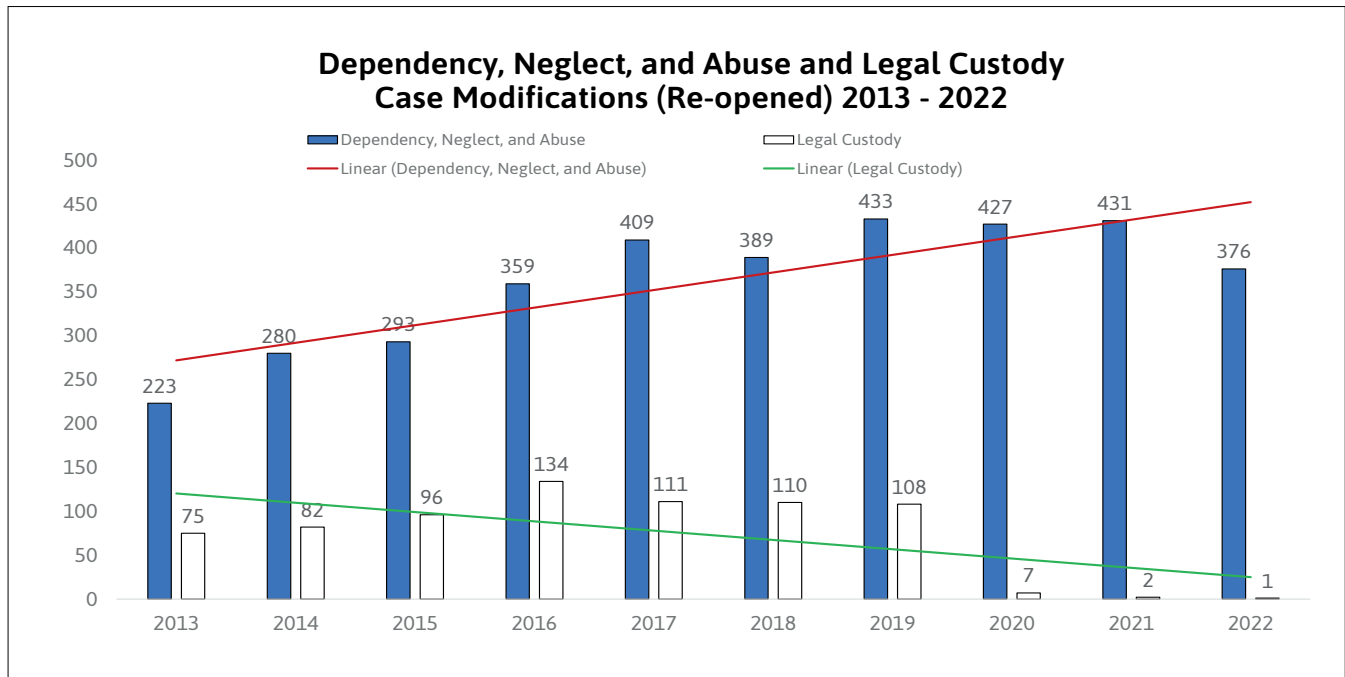
Turning lives around one child at a time.

The number of cases filed in 2022 increased by less than one percent from those filed in 2021. Summit County Juvenile Court has experienced increases in two consecutive years of case filing since the 2020 COVID year. However, the number of cases filed in 2021 and 2022 fell below those filed in 2019.



# Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse and Legal Custody Cases

## New Filings, Case Modifications, and Combined Count



Turning lives around one child at a time.

# Improving Outcomes for Families Involved in Child Welfare

## Advocating for the Best Interests of the Child

**Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL)** is a department of the court that exists to recruit, train, and support staff and community volunteers who are committed to advocating for the best interests of abused, neglected, and dependent children involved in the Summit County child welfare system. CASA/GAL staff and volunteers assist the court by providing judges and magistrates with the critical information needed to ensure that the basic and essential needs of each child are not overlooked.

**In 2022, 813 children were served by staff and CASA volunteers. 31 of the 196 CASA volunteers were newly trained in 2022.**

*\*The CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court is funded with assistance from the CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization that exists to promote and support volunteers in partnership with the court. In addition to funding allocations from the National CASA Association, the CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court is backed by Victims of Crime Act and State Victims Assistance Act (VOCA/SVAA) grants administered through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The CASA/GAL Office of Summit County Juvenile Court is also supported monetarily by federal Title XX/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds distributed by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.*



In 2022, the CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc. established a relaxation station for CASA volunteers inside the Court Appointed Special Advocate Department, located on the 2nd floor at Summit County Juvenile Court.

# Highlight

In 2022, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio welcomed Tater Tot, a professional therapy dog, to Summit County Juvenile Court. Tater Tot's role at the court is 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 four-and-a-half-year-old Border Collie mix works alongside his owner and handler Geoff Auerbach.

Auerbach is a licensed social worker who is employed in the Summit County Juvenile Court Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Department.

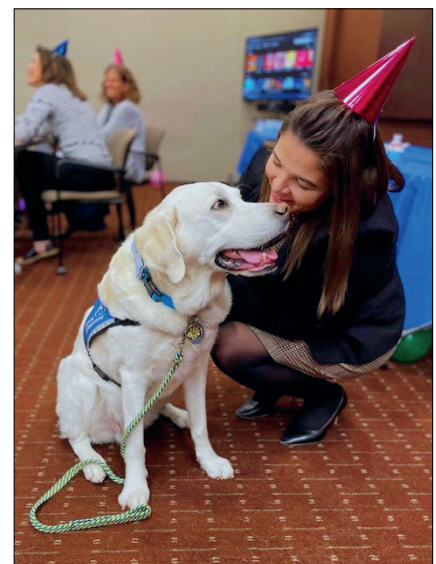
Before being acquired by Auerbach, Tater Tot completed an 18-month training program facilitated by Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education & Services while being fostered by an inmate program participant at Ellsworth Correctional Facility in Kansas.

"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," said Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. "The more 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."



Turning lives around one child at a time.



In 2022, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio hosted Tater Tot's 4th birthday celebration at Summit County Juvenile Court. The ice cream social was sponsored by the CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc. Summit County Juvenile Court employees, CASA volunteers, and Summit County Prosecutor's Office Facility Dog Avery II were in attendance.

# Access to Justice

## Removing Communication Barriers

2022 Interpreters	Total
Nepali	133
Spanish	38
American Sign Language	19
Swahili	17
Burmese	7
Arabic	6
Karen	6
Pashto	5
German	4
Farsi	1
Lao	1
Nepali Sign Language	1
Total	238

**In 2022, Summit County Juvenile Court coordinated 238 interpreter assignments at the cost of \$37,109.93.**

*In 2022, Summit County Juvenile Court coordinated 116 more interpreter assignments than in 2021 (95% increase).*

*The need to provide Nepali-speaking interpreters increased from 68 assignments in 2021 to 133 assignments in 2022.*



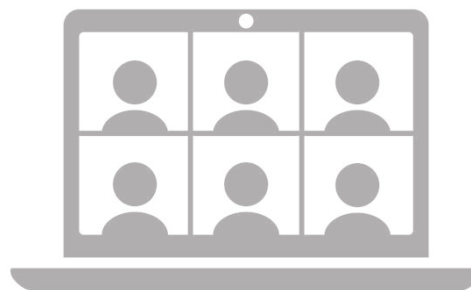
*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

*\*The number of interpreter assignments featured above does not include Summit County Juvenile Court's use of LanguageLine Solutions, an interpreter service offered through the Supreme Court of Ohio.*

2022 Family Mediation Outcomes	Total
Full Resolution	42
Partial Resolution	26
No Resolution	31
Canceled/No Show	10
Total	109

2022 Family Mediation Settings	Total
Virtual	63
In-Person	42
Hybrid	4
Total	109

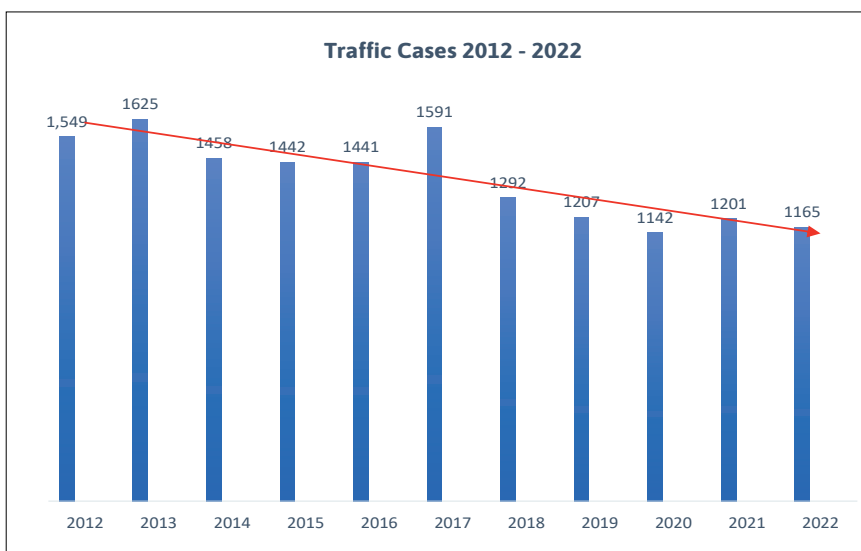
**In 2022, Summit County Juvenile Court coordinated 109 family mediation sessions at the cost of \$11,613.75.**



# Traffic Dispositions Reported by Gender

2022 Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Cost Ordered	391	674	1065
Traffic Fine	377	626	1003
Essay	149	217	366
Staying Accident-Free through Education (SAFTE) - Diversionary	86	120	206
Driving Privileges Granted	56	114	170
14-Day Driving to School	37	81	118
Drivers License (Suspension)	46	117	163
Not to Operate or Apply	56	116	172
Expunge Immediately	312	558	870
Seal Immediately	107	230	337
Others	947	1810	2757

The table above features the standardized traffic dispositions ordered by Summit County Juvenile Court in 2022, as tracked by its case management system. The majority of the traffic dispositions ordered by Summit County Juvenile Court are not reported on this chart, as they are individualized to meet the rehabilitative and treatment needs of the child.



Turning lives around one child at a time.

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

**In 2022, 226 youth were ordered to complete the SAFTE program (6 youth were assigned through dispositional orders, and 220 youth were assigned through diversion requirements). 134 program participants were male, and 92 program participants were female.**



# Family Resource Center and Diversion Services

## Diversion from Formal Juvenile Court Processing

**Family Resource Center and Diversion Services** specialize in providing case management to Summit County youth experiencing behavior problems at home or school, truancy issues, violence and conflict in the home, pregnant and or parenting teens, job readiness, and job search. Additionally, any misdemeanor charge, excluding offenses of violence, that are diversion eligible are processed in this unit and treated in a diversionary manner instead of an official court filing. Families are offered the opportunity to take advantage of case management as part of the diversion process. The goal is to strengthen families and to avoid any further involvement of the youth with the juvenile justice system.

**In 2022, the Family Resource Center and Diversion Services served 563 clients (298 were youth). 440 clients completed case plan goals or diversion requirements. 175 youth were referred for case management as an outcome of their diversion session. 146 of the youth referred successfully completed diversion requirements resulting in their charge being sealed.**

*\*The information above represents data collected by the Family Resource Center and Diversion Services throughout the 2022 calendar year.*

*\*Summit County youth and families do not need to be court-involved to take advantage of the preventative services being offered by the Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center receives funding through the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.*



Required by House Bill 410 on Habitual Truancy	Total
Number of children placed in alternatives to adjudication under division (G) of Section 2151.27 of the ORC.	653
Number of children who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication.	440
Number of children who failed to complete alternatives to adjudication and were adjudicated unruly.	54

## Misdemeanor Services

### Formal Juvenile Court Processing

**Misdemeanor Services** processes misdemeanor complaints that have failed to successfully complete diversion requirements and complaints that are not eligible for diversion services through the Family Resource Center. Complaints processed by misdemeanor services are cases that will be officially filed by the court and processed in a courtroom.

**In 2022, 1261 cases were referred to Misdemeanor Services.**

*\*The information above represents data collected by Summit County Juvenile Court from January 1st through December 31st, 2022.*

2022 Misdemeanors by Race/Ethnicity	Total
African American	578
White	387
Bi-Racial	88
Asian	24
Hispanic	6
Not Noted	177
Indian/Native American	1
Total	1261

# Restorative Justice Dispositions

## Community Service, Special Projects, and Restitution

**Community Service** is often assigned to juveniles as a part of their dispositional orders. To assist court-involved youth in fulfilling community service hours, the court maintains a list of participating non-profit agencies (churches, community organizations, schools) in need of service and provides opportunities at Summit County Juvenile Court. Community service hours may be fulfilled individually or as part of a work crew led under the supervision of a court employee (parental consent is required).

Juvenile offenders who contribute \$40 of appropriate goods to court-led special projects (clothing, food, school supplies, and toy drives) may be eligible to receive credit for up to eight hours (maximum per case) of community service. Proof of purchase must be presented. Clothing and food collections are distributed by the Family Resource Center and Diversion Services to families and youth in need. School supplies and toys are gifted to abused and neglected children being serviced by the CASA/GAL department at Summit County Juvenile Court.

**In 2022, 324 hours of community service were assigned as dispositional orders. A total of 70 hours of community service were completed throughout the year. Through diversionary requirements, \$520 was collected in support of special projects.**

The **Child Responsibility Project** provides juvenile offenders with meaningful work experience while holding them accountable for their delinquent acts that result in property damage, property loss, or personal injury. By performing community service activities at an hourly wage (under the supervision of a court employee), project participants can pay restitution (\$1,000 maximum per case) to the victim of their offense. The Summit County Fiscal Office facilitates the distribution of all restitution dollars to victims.



**In 2022, 37 youth completed 1348 hours of restitution through the Child Responsibility Project. As a result, the Summit County Fiscal Office facilitated the distribution of \$13,406.31 in restitution dollars to victims.**



*In 2022, the City of Akron recognized Summit County Juvenile Court's adopted Keep Akron Beautiful site with a Beautification Watch Award.*

*The site is annually prepared, planted, and maintained by court-involved youth participating in the Child Responsibility Project.*



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

# Delinquency Dispositions Reported by Gender

2022 Delinquency Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Obey Home and School Rules	112	288	400
Child to Attend School	43	101	144
House Arrest	20	132	152
Traditional Probation Order	13	118	131
Violence Intervention Classes	1	40	41
Individual Counseling	37	47	84
Referral to The Village Network	3	36	39
Restitution	21	98	119
Thinking for a Change	-	9	9
Substance Abuse Evaluation	5	18	23
Letter of Apology	14	47	61
Crossroads Probation Order	3	16	19
Essay	26	36	62
Offender Specific Probation	1	12	13
Community Correctional Facility	1	8	9
Commit to the Ohio Department of Youth Services	1	11	12
Restore Court Probation Order	15	3	18
Parole Revocation	1	-	1
Referral to Child Guidance	-	5	5
Others	3210	9874	13084

The table above features the standardized delinquency dispositions ordered by Summit County Juvenile Court in 2022, as tracked by its case management system. The majority of the delinquency dispositions ordered by Summit County Juvenile Court are not reported on this chart, as they are individualized to meet the rehabilitative and treatment needs of the child.

2022 Out-of-Home Placements	Female	Male	Total
Community Correctional Facility	1	8	9
Group Home	-	4	4
Ohio Department of Youth Services	1	11	12
Residential Treatment Center	4	4	8
Total	6	27	33

The table above features data collected throughout the 2022 calendar year.

**13 youth (12 males and 1 female) were transferred through the bindover process to the General Division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court. 9 of the bindovers were mandatory and 4 were discretionary.**

\*The information above represents data collected throughout the 2022 calendar year.

# Probation Services

## Promoting Personal Growth, Positive Behavior and Success

**Probation Services** allows adjudicated youth to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation case manager. Probation case managers are assigned to provide support and guidance and assist the youth and family with the court experience. Using evidence-based tools and interventions, probation case managers are responsible for promoting positive behavior change.

**In 2022, Probation Services was responsible for supervising 232 youth on probation (110 youth remained on the probation caseload from the previous year, and 122 youth were assigned to complete a new term of probation in 2022). 125 youth successfully completed probation.**

2022 Successful Probation Completions by Probation Type	Total
Crossroads	12
Offender Specific Unit	13
Traditional	100
Total	125

*\*Summit County Juvenile Court is a nationally recognized probation transformation site, one of only 26 sites in the country and 9 sites throughout the State of Ohio. Probation transformation is a juvenile justice strategy that is being led by The Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Ohio Department of Youth Services.*



**Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice** grant funding provided by the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, allows the court to offer treatment (Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment and Trauma-Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and support services (mentoring, parent advocacy, pro-social activities, respite care, tutoring, etc.) to approximately 40-50 felony court involved youth on probation annually. BHJJ funded treatment and services are provided by the following court partners: Akron Area YMCA, Child Guidance & Family Solutions, Greenleaf Family Center, Sylvan Learning Center, and The Village Network.

Through BHJJ funding, the court is able to employ a case manager to work directly with felony youth on probation; as well as, their family members, to develop an individualized case plan to ensure that the appropriate treatments and services are in place and being properly accessed. To monitor the progress being made by youth and families receiving treatment and/or services funded with Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice grant dollars, periodic review hearings are conducted by a magistrate who utilizes a system of incentives/rewards and sanctions to promote full engagement.

2022 New Referrals to BHJJ Funded Therapeutic Services	Total
Child Guidance	5
The Village Network	40



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

# Specialized Dockets

## Certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio



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

**In 2022, 4 youth successfully graduated from the Crossroads specialized docket.**

**Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC)** is a Supreme Court of Ohio certified specialized docket of the court that exists to quickly, creatively, and effectively partner with court-involved families in which substance use is a contributing issue to Summit County Children Services' removal of a child/children from home, and to address substance misuse and other family challenges to create a healthy, stable home environment that allows the family to permanently reunify. A comprehensive system of services is utilized through a partnership with Summit County Children Services and several local mental health, substance abuse treatment, and social service provider agencies to achieve goals. Weekly treatment team meetings and review hearings are held to ensure participant engagement, program compliance, and advancement toward rehabilitation and reunification with their children.

**In 2022, 3 parents successfully graduated from the Family Reunification through Recovery Court specialized docket. 2 families were reunified.**

**Restore Court** is a Supreme Court of Ohio certified specialized docket that exists to divert juvenile victims of human trafficking from the justice system to a safe, supportive, and comprehensive system of restorative care. Participating youth may receive services through Safe Harbor Diversion, through which, qualifying charges may be dismissed upon completion, a more traditional probation track or intensive case management, mentoring and other services provided by Restore staff to youth identified as being at high risk to become victims. Summit County Department of Job and Family Services provides funding for services. In all these scenarios, caregivers are also encouraged to participate and offered services to meet the needs of the family.

Restore Court services empower youth/families involved in human trafficking and those at high risk to achieve successful lives. The program combines evidence-based practices, such as trauma informed treatment and substance abuse counseling with services and activities that promote connection, healing, and self-worth as a way of intervening and diverting youth from the path as early as possible.



**In 2022, 3 youth successfully graduated from the Restore Court specialized docket.**



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*



# Summit County Juvenile Detention Center

## A Short-Term Holding Facility

**Summit County Juvenile Detention Center** is a secure, short-term holding facility for youth who are a threat to public safety. The facility is open 24-hours a day, 365-days a year.

Bi-weekly visitations between youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center and parents/guardians were facilitated in-person and virtually in 2022. Youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center were also presented with opportunities to visit weekly with Summit County Juvenile Court's Professional Therapy Dog Tater Tot. Tater Tot is a four-year-old, Border Collie mix that has been trained to provide comfort and companionship to individuals in emotional distress.

Akron Public Schools provided in-person educational instructions to youth throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Through grant funding, a collaboration between Akron Public Schools and the Weathervane Playhouse provided youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center with an opportunity to participate in an introduction to theatre course titled, "Find Your Voice." Other cultural enrichment activities include: art, gardening, library services, music, Spanish, and yoga.

Secure Admissions by Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	232	78%
Female	66	22%
Total	298	100%

Secure Admissions by Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
African American	199	67%
White	69	23%
Bi-Racial	25	8%
Asian	5	2%
Total	298	100%



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

*\*Average Daily Population, 29.*



*Summit County Juvenile Detention Center front lobby.*

# Commitment to Juvenile Justice Reform

## Improving Outcomes for Youth, Families, and Communities

**Breakthrough Series Collaborative** is a collaborative effort facilitated by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Center for Children's Law & Policy. The collaborative seeks to identify strategies for reducing and eliminating racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities faced by youth of color involved with the juvenile justice system and to improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

A committee of community partners and court staff have been working on the development and implementation of a Collaborative Change Framework (CCF). The CCF Committee's objective is to establish a vision for a community driven approach to diversion and the creation of community-based alternatives that will result in better outcomes for youth of color. Providing a broader range of options for system involved youth and enable the justice system to focus its resources on more serious offenses.



Summit County is one of five teams nationally working together with stakeholders to transform their juvenile justice system by charting pathways and processes that lead to juvenile justice involvement; identifying key decision points that create disparities; and developing and testing practices and processes that advance community-based services and supports, including alternatives to system involvement.

---

**Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)** is a juvenile justice reform model founded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and backed by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, that has proven to be effective in safely reducing juvenile detention populations and spurring broader system advancements.

- **Deep End Reform:** Summit County is one of three counties in the State of Ohio to expand its reform practices to the deep end (dispositional end) of the juvenile justice system. This expanded focus on reform concentrates on safely and significantly reducing out-of-home placements for youth, especially youth of color.

**In 2022, 49 youth were released from detention and supervised through the Detention Alternative Release Program (DARP). 84% of the program participants were successful.**



---

**The Parent Project** is a free, evidence-based 10-session class that helps parents acquire the tools needed to change destructive adolescent behavior. The proven curriculum addresses the most difficult problems facing adolescents, such as alcohol and drug use, criminal behavior, domestic violence, family conflict, gang involvement, out-of-control behaviors, poor school attendance/performance, running away, sexually acting out (sexting), social media, video game addiction, and suicidal threats/attempts.



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

**In 2022, 39 parents graduated from The Parent Project. Since October 2018, 172 participants have graduated from the program.**

# The Women's Board to the Summit County Juvenile Court Financial Support and Volunteer Services

The **Women's Board to the Summit County Juvenile Court** is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides vital financial support to court-involved families and volunteer services to the court's operation. Members focus most of their efforts on enhancing the conditions of confinement within the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center by funding structural improvement projects and delivering supportive programming to youth being held in secure confinement.

**In 2022, the Women's Board to the Summit County Juvenile Court granted over \$10,000 to Summit County Juvenile Court. The funds were used to support: virtual art classes; in-person gardening activities; food, clothing, and toiletries for court-involved families in need; special projects; and good behavior rewards for youth being held in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center.**



*A mural of youth enjoying gardening activities is located inside the front lobby of the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center.*



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*



# Highlights

In 2022, the Supreme Court of Ohio funded the expansion of the multidisciplinary representation team that is being piloted by Summit County Juvenile Court.

Summit County Juvenile Court's Multidisciplinary Representation Team (MRT) was initially assembled in 2021 to include three attorneys specializing in child welfare law, a case coordinator with a background in social work, and a parent advocate with lived child welfare experience.

Throughout the last two years, the team has expanded to include nine attorneys, two case coordinators, and two parent advocates. Together, the team of 13 works to improve and expedite positive outcomes for children and parents involved in the child welfare system.

Research shows that through this approach, children of parents represented by a multidisciplinary team spent almost four months less in foster care and achieved permanency, including reunification and guardianship, faster than children of parents who received solo attorney representation (Children & Youth Services Review, 2019).

This data and outcomes from many similar research studies have sparked the emergence of the multidisciplinary approach nationwide.

Ongoing support and cooperation for the pilot are provided by Greenleaf Family Center, Summit County Children Services, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, and the Supreme Court of Ohio.

For more information on Multidisciplinary Representation Teams, visit [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_interest/child\\_law/resources/child\\_law\\_practiceonline/january---december-2019/providing-parents-multidisciplinary-legal-representation-signifi/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/january---december-2019/providing-parents-multidisciplinary-legal-representation-signifi/).



**Dawne Greathouse**  
Parent Advocate



**Veronica McNair**  
Parent Advocate



**Debra Briggs**  
Case Coordinator



**James Warner**  
Case Coordinator



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*



**In 2022, 34 cases were assigned to the Multidisciplinary Representation Team. Since the pilot's inception in 2021, 8 families have achieved reunification impacting the lives of 16 children, and an additional 13 children have achieved permanency through kinship placement.**

# Summit County Juvenile Court

## 2022 Employees

Bruce Alexander  
David Arman  
Rebecca Armstrong  
Vanessa Askew  
Geoffrey Auerbach  
Nicole Bachman  
Joseph Baglieri  
Kathleen Bailey  
Kyle Banit  
Kenzie Barclay  
Tammy Barnes  
Dalcynthia Barnett  
Pamela Bennett  
Eva Bertsch  
Robert Bickett  
Jameesha Blakely  
Christina Bollman  
Tiffany Bollman  
Jennifer Bond  
Jonathan Booher  
Jerald Brannon  
Debra Briggs  
Tyler Britton  
Welby Broadus Jr  
Shaerrice Bryant  
Bryan Bryce  
Myles Burdick  
Justin Burton  
Katherine Calla  
Beth Cardina  
Samuel Chambers  
Rollin Clayton  
Daniel Cody  
Ebony Coleman  
Renee Conlon  
Samuel Cooke  
Andrew Cox  
Carmen Crawford  
Joseph Cregan  
Amber Crowe  
Jordynn Cullen  
Felicia Daniels  
Amy Datsko  
William Davis  
Heidi Day Hall  
Stephanie DeLeo  
Tyler Devenport  
Thomas Dillingham  
Lisa Disabato-Moore  
Amanda Dodson  
Sharness Dowdy  
Alice Duey  
Kory Dunaway  
Kristen Duvall  
Lisa Eagle  
Tia Edwards

Natasha Ervin  
Cheryl Evans  
Tye Evans  
Chanin Faith  
Holly Farah  
Christopher Fergus  
Tremain Fields  
David Fish  
Michael Fleming  
Kevin Floyd  
Dylan Fouse  
Jazmyn Fowler  
Kayla Fredey  
Francine Freeman  
Thomas Freeman  
Alan Futo  
Laura Gaetano  
Roderick Garrett  
Susan Gatts  
Laura Geer  
Errik Gerback  
Melissa Gerney  
Kevin Gladney  
Katherine Good  
Donald Guthrie  
Tandaleyo Hall  
Antonio Hammons  
Kali Harper  
Jasmine Harris  
Angela Hart  
Sarah Harvan  
Haley Heilman  
Katherine Herman  
Gregory Higgins  
Latonya Hill  
Kandy Hixson  
Karen Holmes  
Erica Hopkins  
David Horner  
Chad Horstman  
Curtis Howard  
Katherine Hullum  
Nicole Huntsman  
Thaddeus Ingol  
Perry James  
Antonio Johnson  
Andre Jones  
David Jones  
Kenneth Jones  
Lisa Karas  
Christine Kasper  
Rachel Kassinger  
Joseph Kernan  
Adam Krider  
Georgeta Kutuchief  
Kandice Lacy

Tiana Lamb  
Matthew Lambeth  
Jennifer Lewis  
Zaire Lewis  
Anna Liggett  
Donald Lomax  
Mary Lorenzo  
Laura Lynd Robinson  
Tillman Manuel III  
Dawne Marlowe  
Allison Marquis  
Mary Martin  
Stacey Mathieu  
Tonya May  
Sedrick McCail  
Jalynn McCants  
Robert McCarty  
Douglas McDougal  
Daniel Meeks  
Mary Ann Mendlik  
Rebecca Miller  
Tyreese Mitchell  
Kandace Monroe  
Ciara Morris  
Leslie Morris  
Lynda Mullins  
Lora Mycoskie  
Juan Antonio Nieves  
Jimmy Oliver  
Michelle Palmeri  
Ashley Peters  
Terrie Pfeil  
Zachary Pfeil  
Lori Phillips  
Andrew Poda  
Bailey Pollitt  
Tiffany Poole  
Jeffrie Pope  
Kevin Pratt  
Milton Rankins  
Joseph Revezzo  
Rhonda Riddle  
Asia Ritter  
Rita Rochford  
Lisa Rotondo  
Sarah Roupe  
Constance Sales  
Derry Sanders Jr  
Stephen Saxon  
Jolynn Schaetzle  
Lee Schaffer  
Danielle Schantz  
Todd Schaufler  
Kynasia Sherman  
Jennifer Sholes  
Tiffany Sieg

Sherri Simmons  
Qyra Sims  
Renee Sipe  
Annie Skapin  
Alisha Smith  
April Smith  
Thomas Smith  
Ericka Sommerville  
Tamara Stiles  
Danielle Stoll  
Christopher Strong  
Linda Teodosio  
Adam Testa  
Sarah Testa  
Heather Turner  
Jhonesha Turner  
Elwood Tyrrell  
Triston Tyrrell Smead  
Mandi Tyson  
Mariah Uhl  
Donald Ursetti  
Kathryn Vanhorn  
Heather Vincent  
Fred Wagner  
Rashara Walker  
Angela Walls-Alexander  
James Warner II  
Ginger Welch  
Beverly Wilkerson  
Kym Williams  
Nathaniel Williams  
Timothy Williams  
Tracy Williams  
Eddie Winstead  
Cara Wolfgram Evans  
Alexandra Wright  
Joshua Young  
Joan Zito

*The list above features full-time and part-time staff members employed by Summit County Juvenile Court at a point in time throughout the 2022 calendar year.*



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*





*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

The **2022 Annual Report** is a publication of  
Summit County Juvenile Court,  
located at 650 Dan Street, Akron, Ohio 44310.

**Vision Statement**

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

For more information about the topics covered  
in this report, call 330-643-2904.

**[juvenilecourt.summitoh.net](http://juvenilecourt.summitoh.net)**