

2023 Annual Report

William P. Kannel
Juvenile Court Center

**Summit County Court of Common Pleas
Juvenile Division
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio**



Turning lives around one child at a time.



Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge

Summit County Juvenile Court Leadership

Robert Bickett, Court Administrator
David Horner, Assistant Court Administrator
Curtis Howard, Assistant Court Administrator
Woody Tyrrell, Grants Administrator
Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Special Projects Administrator
Kevin Floyd, Operations Administrator
Melissa Gerney, Detention Superintendent

Magistrates

Daniel Cody, Amber Crowe, David Fish, Thomas Freeman, Laura Lynd-Robinson,
Robert McCarty, Douglas McDougal, Mary Ann Mendlik, Milton Rankins,
Rita Rochford, Lee Ann Schaffer, Angela Walls-Alexander

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."

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator

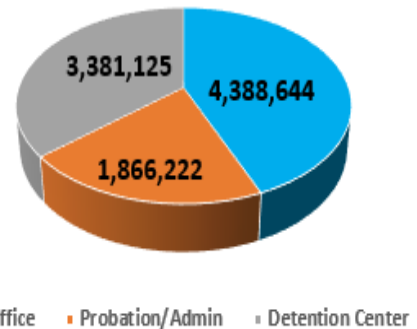
*The 2023 Summit County Juvenile court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled **\$17,938,013***

General Office/Judicial	\$2,630,139	RECLAIM Ohio	\$6,902,319	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$13,080,958
Probation/Administration	1,928,928	Title IV-E	300,000	Contract Service	2,387,167
Detention Center	3,606,966	TitleXX/TANF Job Re-entry	115,000	Other	2,469,888
Total County Funding	\$8,166,033	Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice	263,636		\$17,938,013
		Victims of Crime	79,836		
		Victims of Human Trafficking	167,937		
		National School Lunch Program	89,015		
		Title XX Guardian ad Litem	558,431		
		TANF XX Family Resource Center	657,601		
		State Victims Assistance	3,286		
		Supreme Court MRT	150,000		
		CASA Volunteer Board	97,593		
		Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy	135,000		
		Summit Co. ADM Detention MH Services	245,346		
		Casey Foundation	6,980		
		Total State/Federal Grant Funding	\$9,771,980		

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

<u>SERVICE PROVIDER</u>	<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
Electronic Monitoring Oriana House, Inc.	115,000.00
Out of Home Placement Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter	137,750.00
Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family And Children First Council/Summit County Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement	131,084.00
Short Term out of Home Placement Shelter Care Youth Assessment	245,000.00
Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT) Child Guidance & Family Solution	140,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services Community Health Center	27,000.00
Mentoring Akron Area YMCA	25,000.00
Competency Evaluations Summit Psychological Associates	15,000.00
Community Service/Restitution Program Funds to Victims	50,000.00
Long Term out of Home Placement Various Placement Agencies	300,000.00
Diversion Programming Distributed in varying amounts to 14 Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices	208,575.00
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program Village Network	165,000.00
Youth & Family Counseling Greenleaf Family Center	55,000.00

Court Funding



2023 RECLAIM Ohio Funding

For over a decade, the Court has been one of the top two counties in 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. Unfortunately, due to the length of stay for those youth who have been committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services; our bed-day usage did increase by 895 bed-days (an increase of 31% from fiscal year 2022.) The Court yielded \$3,908,997.91, or a 12% share of available variable RECLAIM funds. The Court also received allocations of \$705,896.00 from the Youth Services Grant, \$351,896.00 for Targeted RECLAIM, \$30,000.00 for Competitive RECLAIM, and \$304,846.88 for BHJJ. All totaled, in Fiscal Year 2023, the Court received \$5,301,636.79 from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Additional 2023 Funding

Prepared by Grants Administrator, Woody Tyrrell

In addition to the Summit County 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 its goal of assuring that each child entering the Court leaves with increased opportunity for success in school, work, family relationships, and the community. ***Grant funding committed to the Court for special programming/projects in 2023, totaled \$2,275,128. Thirty full- and part-time Court positions and several positions/programs for partnering community service providers are supported by these funding streams.*** The programs/projects either fully or partially operated by this funding in 2023 are:

The Family Resource Center (FRC), \$728,000: Intensive case management and diversion services are 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 whole community. The FRC served 576 youth and family members in 2023. ***Federal Title XX/TANF funds are provided and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

The Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Program, \$334,000: Intensive probation and case management services, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and/or cognitive behavioral therapy is delivered in home to families of youth who are at the greatest risk of commitment to Department of Youth Service institutions. Approximately 40-45 youth & their families are served annually. ***Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services 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, \$115,000: provides intensive case management services to 25 youth per year who are confined in the Ohio Department of Youth Services facilities, detention center, or other residential placements for lengthy stays to develop life and job skills, link them to education and training opportunities, mentors, jobs & higher education. The goal is to transition them successfully back into their families and the community. ***Federal Title XX/TANF funds are provided and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Restore Court Specialized docket for victims of human trafficking, \$185,000: Intensive supervision and case management services, safety planning, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and mentoring are provided to approximately 25 youth annually who are victims of human trafficking or at high risk to become victims. Restore is a state certified specialized docket. ***Federal Title XX/TANF funds are provided and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Additional Funding, con't

Specialized Docket funds were received in 2023 for the court's three Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets—***Crossroads--Co-occurring mental health and substance abuse court, Restore Court--victims and those at risk to become victims of human trafficking court*** and the ***Family Reunification through Recovery Court***. Combined, the three problem-solving courts received **\$120,000** from the **Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services** under state of Ohio House Bill 483.

The **Supreme Court of Ohio** provided **\$120,000** for year three of the statewide Multidisciplinary Representation Team pilot. Two court social workers work with court appointed attorneys as a part of their legal defense team for qualifying parents who have had a child/children removed from their custody to aid the parent in successfully completing their Children Services case plans to facilitate positive case outcomes.

CASA/GAL Child Advocate Team, \$583,000: provides a team of Licensed Social Workers (LSW) Guardian ad Litem positions devoted to providing direct child advocacy and case management services to approximately 200 children removed from their homes annually. Typically, these professionals are assigned in place of volunteer CASAs when the youth removed from the home are also involved in delinquency cases. ***Funding is provided by Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Additional CASA/GAL Program Funding awarded in 2023 was again provided by a variety of sources including:

- Federal **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)** funds, **\$86,842 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**.
- The **Summit County CASA Volunteer Board Association** also generously contributes significant funds to the CASA program as reported in the CASA Program section of this annual report.



Detention Center
Melissa Gerney, Superintendent

Summit County Juvenile Detention is a short-term holding facility for youth who pose a threat to public safety.

Full-time Detention Center staff members are responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for juveniles, personnel, and other persons, and to assist with the security of the facility. Detention staff are also responsible for transporting juveniles to Court hearings, medical appointments, counseling appointments, placements and other appointments deemed necessary by the Court.

The Detention Center continues to maintain high standards set forth by the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The Detention Center also adheres to the strict standards set forth by the American Correctional Association, (ACA) receiving their initial certification in May 2015, successfully achieving a second and third reaccreditation in 2018 and 2021 respectively. A fourth reaccreditation audit is scheduled for April of 2024.

Virtual technology (ZOOM) that was put in place due to the pandemic remains a part of our visitation options. This provides parents/guardians with additional face-to-face opportunities with their children and allows more flexibility to parents/guardians who may not have transportation and/or schedule conflicts during our in-person visit times. This technology has also allowed many Court proceedings to move forward, including those that are scheduled with the General Division, without the need to transport juveniles outside of the facility.

Education remains an important facet of the Detention Center operations. Akron Public Schools provides all educational programming, providing daily instruction that includes Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. Two part-time tutors are available to assist youth who may need additional support in Math and Language Arts. The Detention Center also partners with Kent State University to provide writing and art classes that are offered each semester.

Weathervane Playhouse Theatre continues to work in collaboration with Social Studies teacher Ruth Edge to provide educational programming funded by a free grant. The program, "Find Your Voice", includes teaching youth about different aspects of the theater, communication and cooperation, and introducing classic pieces of literature through acting and performing.

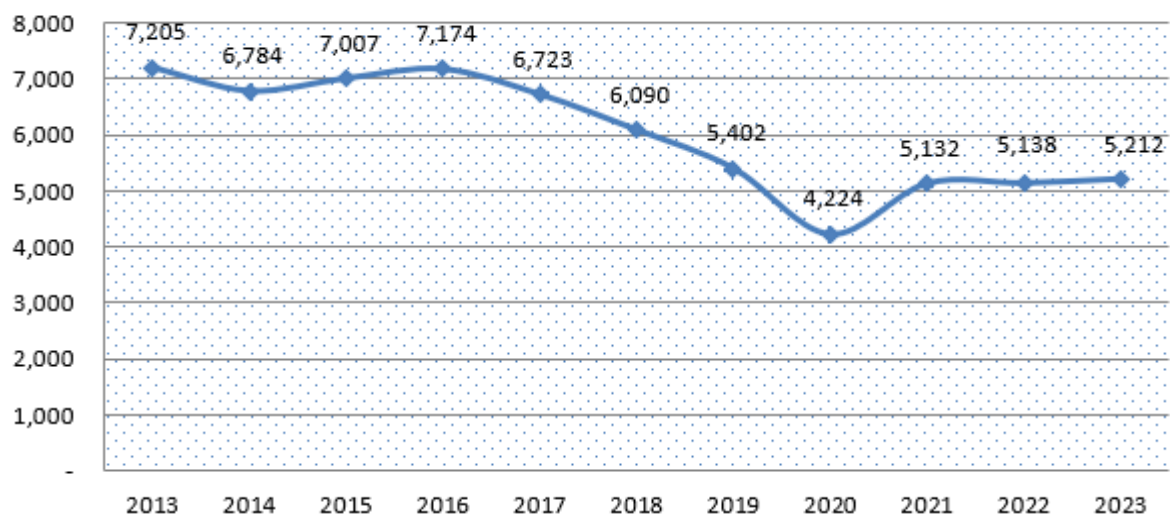
Mental Health clinicians continue to provide daily support to the juveniles admitted to the facility. The Therapy Room, based in the Detention Center, is a place where youth can go for respite and advice. Mental Health staff continue to utilize the services of Geoff Auerbach and his Therapy Dog, Tater Tot. Juveniles have the opportunity to request sessions with Tater Tot on a weekly basis in the therapy room and as weather permits, in our recreation yard. Mental health and chemical dependency assessments are conducted to assess the individual needs of each juvenile. Group and individual counseling sessions are conducted.

The Women's Board continues to provide bi-monthly rewards parties and holiday parties. In addition to the programming highlighted above, yoga, pickleball, Spanish, art, book club, religious services, mentoring services, and library services continue to be offered to all youth in the Detention Center. Also, a benefactor who prefers to be called Mr. Simon, has made several generous contributions to the Detention Center that enhances recreational opportunities for youth who have earned the privilege of visiting the wing where these items are located.

By the Numbers—Case Filings from 2013-2023

		2023												2023 Totals	2023 % of Total
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
DL	97	105	88	134	68	123	88	94	99	93	116	109	107	1,224	23.48%
TR	88	70	95	100	83	103	110	98	107	120	96	72	109	1,163	22.31%
DN	80	68	96	87	97	134	94	87	89	64	81	67	78	1,042	19.99%
FS	16	33	13	35	33	37	20	32	16	5	4	6	13	247	4.74%
UN	23	47	20	64	27	33	30	22	21	9	7	6	18	304	5.83%
RF	46	52	35	44	25	38	58	26	47	44	44	48	53	514	9.86%
RT	58	67	113	129	39	56	35	-	2	5	31	67	52	596	11.44%
LC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
GP	4	4	6	4	2	5	5	5	19	11	8	7	7	83	1.59%
PS	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	4	0.08%
CT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.02%
PO	4	5	3	1	2	4	3	3	2	4	2	1	2	32	0.61%
TM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	0.04%
Total	416	451	470	599	376	533	444	369	402	356	389	383	440	5,212	100.00%

Case Filings 2013 - 2023



Key v

DL Delinquency

TR Traffic

TM Transferred Case

GP Grand Parent

CT Contributing(Adult)

PS Permanent Surrender

FS Failure to Send

DN Dependency/Neglect/Abuse

PO Protection Order

RF Referral Unofficial

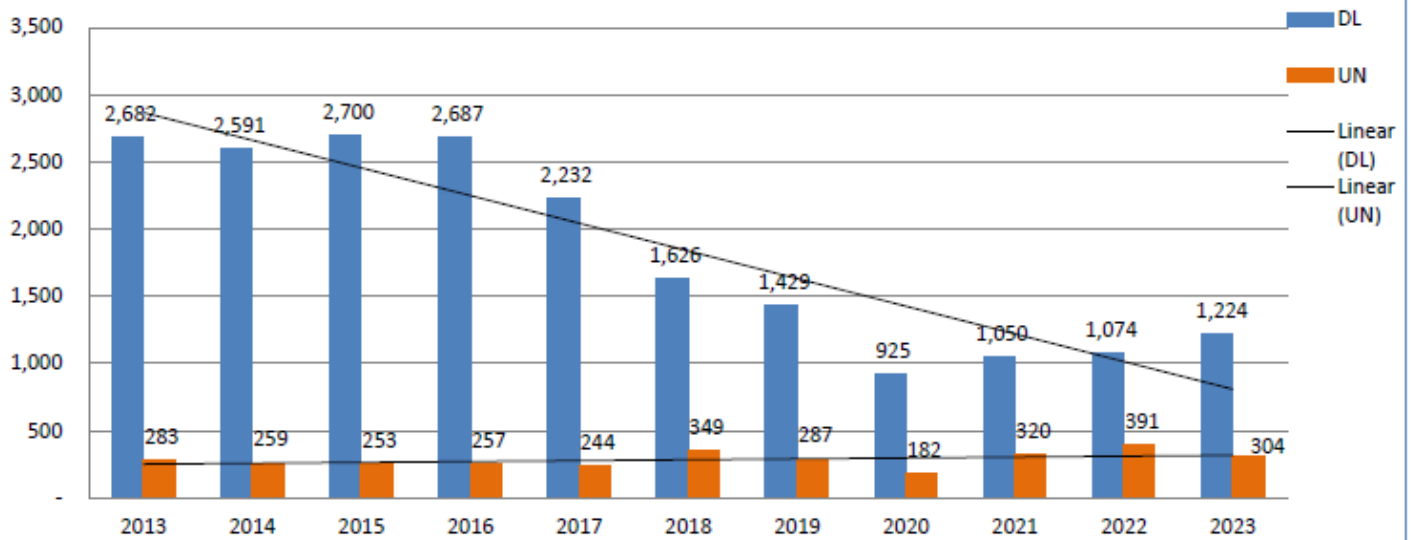
LC Legal Custody

UN Unruly

RT Referral Truancy

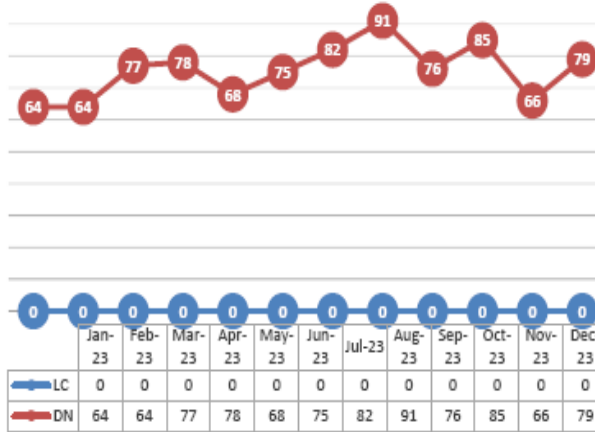
2023 By the Numbers- Delinquency Case Filings

Delinquent - Unruly Case Types New Filings - 2013 -2023

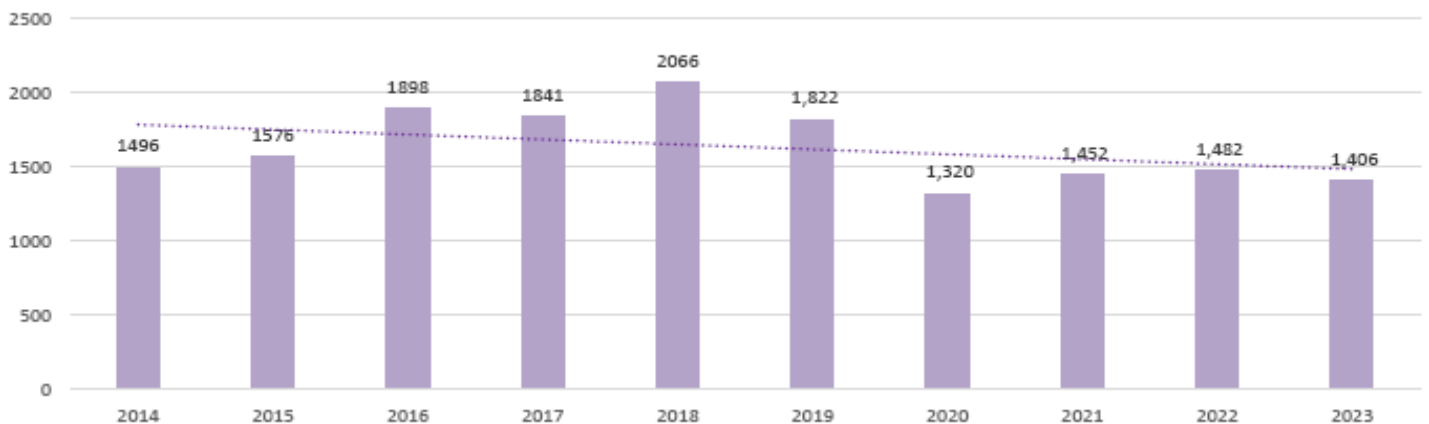


Example: DN case closed in December 2008. Reopened July 2019 showing 3 new disposition codes. The case would only be counted once in July 2019. Each time a case that has been closed gets modified after the original closed date, it is counted in the month that it was modified.

Rolling 12 Months - Distinct Count of DN LC Modification Cases



COMBINED COUNT - DN LC New Filings plus DN LC Modification cases 2014 - 2023



2023 By the Numbers– Diversion, Misdemeanor & Truancy Filings

	2022		2023		YTD % +/- Previous year
DIVERSION OR UNOFFICIAL CASES	Dec	YTD	Dec	YTD	
MISDEMEANOR					
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	15	99	21	117	18%
THEFT	7	58	10	94	62%
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	4	40	2	44	10%
MENACING	2	9	2	15	67%
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	3	12	1	16	33%
PUBLIC INDECENCY	-	-	1	1	100%
ILLEGAL USE OR POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	2	10	1	13	30%
RIOT	3	22	1	35	59%
RESISTING ARREST	-	5	1	6	20%
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	-	27	1	35	30%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS HARRASSMENT	2	4	1	5	25%
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	-	16	1	37	131%
UNRULY CHILD DEFINED	-	3	1	3	0%
OPEN CONTAINER LAW	-	2	1	4	100%
POSSESSING CRIMINAL TOOLS	-	-	1	3	100%
STATUS					
UNRULY CHILD DEFINED	62	745	65	729	-2%

Misdemeanor & Truancy Diversion with a Successful Diversion Disposition in 2023																			
Case Type	Not Noted	Female									Male								
		Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Ameri/ Eskimo	Bi-Racial	Native HI/Pac Island	White	Total	Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Ameri/ Eskimo	Bi-Racial	Native HI/Pac Island	White	Total
RF	-	44	2	59	-	-	4	-	40	149	40	2	74	1	2	9	-	80	208
RT	-	18	2	54	5	1	11	-	76	167	23	6	60	7	-	14	-	67	177
Total	-	62	4	113	5	1	15	-	116	316	63	8	134	8	2	23	-	147	385

Misdemeanor & Truancy Diversion with a Failed Diversion Disposition in 2023																			
Case Type	Not Noted	Female									Male								
		Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Ameri/ Eskimo	Bi-Racial	Native HI/Pac Island	White	Total	Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Ameri/ Eskimo	Bi-Racial	Native HI/Pac Island	White	Total
RF	-	4	-	46	-	-	-	1	9	60	8	1	46	-	-	3	-	16	74
RT	-	5	1	66	1	2	7	-	22	104	7	5	74	-	-	12	-	31	129
Total	-	9	1	112	1	2	7	1	31	164	15	6	120	-	-	15	-	47	203

Clerk's Office

Stacey Mathieu, Chief Deputy Clerk

The Clerk's Office is the clearinghouse for the Juvenile Court. Every single document from every single case that comes to the Court will be filed with there. Whether it be a Court staff member, a family member, an attorney, a prosecutor, or the public, if they need information regarding a case, the request must go through the Clerk's Office.

The staff of the Clerk's Office works diligently to accommodate those requests in a responsive and responsible manner.

The Clerk's Office is also charged with the collection and accounting of fines and fees yielded during the course of the year. In 2019, the office collected a total of \$155,292.80. Here is a breakdown of the monies collected:

Computer and Legal Research, Victims of Crime Fees: \$67,787.68

Traffic Fines & Costs, Indigent Drivers Treatment and Defense, Legal Aid: \$60,185.50

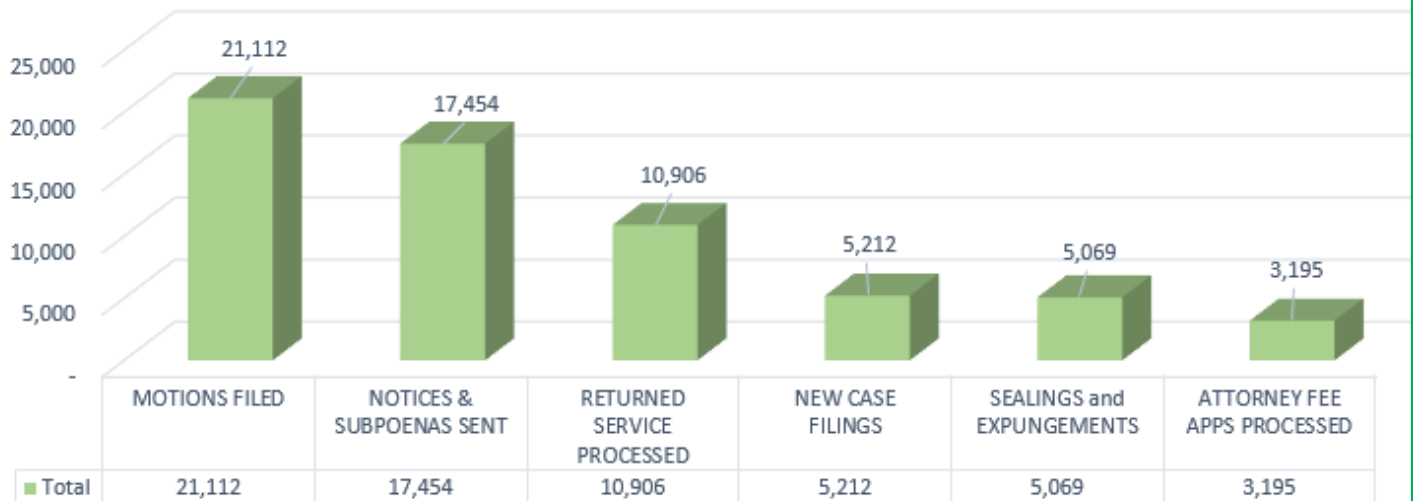
Staying Accident-Free Through Education (SAFTE)Driver Intervention Program: \$5,100.00

Restitution to Victims: \$21,386.49

Fines and Costs for Delinquency, Unruly and Adult Cases: \$315.00

Merchant Services: \$518.13

Clerk Department Stats - 2023



Probation Services

Jennifer Bond, Probation Administrator*

Youth who are brought to the attention of the court on matters identified in the Ohio Revised Code as felony offenses are referred to the Summit County Juvenile Court Probation Services Department. Probation Services work with youth and families to gather information needed to make an informed recommendation to the Judge or Magistrate. If ordered to complete a term of probation, the youth will then be served by a Probation Case Manager. The overall goal of probation services is to promote personal growth, positive behavioral change and long-term success in the youth and families that we serve.

Traditional Probation: Traditional Probation is an effective intervention targeted to youth that pose a risk for reoffending. The Court's evidence-based Probation Service allows adjudicated youth to remain in the community under the supervision of a Probation Case Manager. The focus for 2023 was connecting youth to positive role models and pro-social activities in their communities. In July of 2023, the Court received a \$30,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services to help connect youth to pro-social activities. Some of the activities include health and wellness, arts, career exploration, and sports. These pro-social activities allow for skill acquisition and support for a healthy transition into adulthood.

In 2023, Traditional Probation had 102 new admissions and 69 successful terminations.

Crossroads Probation: This program has been certified by the Ohio Supreme Court as a specialized docket. This program is an intensive probation program for juvenile offenders with a mental health diagnosis, a substance use disorder or both (dual diagnosis). To ensure program compliance, youth and family members are required to appear periodically before a Magistrate for review hearings. Youth participants who successfully complete this program may be eligible to have the charges that brought them to the attention of the court dismissed and sealed.

In 2023, the program had 13 new admissions and 5 graduates.

New Paths: A specialized intervention service that is also a probation program for juvenile offenders who have been diagnosed with a cognitive delay or developmental disability. This population of Court-involved youth are guided through the juvenile justice system by a dedicated Court officer that has been specially trained to effectively serve youth with developmental deficits. In addition to serving as the juvenile's primary court liaison, New Paths court officers also work to connect participants to a network of community-based treatment and service providers.

Offender Specific Probation: Serves as an intensive level of probation service for juvenile offenders who have been adjudicated of a sexual offense. In addition to following the rules and conditions of probation, juveniles assigned to this probation track are court ordered to undergo sex offender specific assessments and evaluations, participate in evidence-based therapeutic treatment practices (individual and family), attend weekly rehabilitative group counseling sessions, complete assigned amends projects, learn new social skills, enhance empathy deficits and more. Parental participation is required.

In 2023, 23 youth were placed on Offender Specific Probation and 15 successful terminations.

**The Probation Administrator fulfills the responsibility of Chief Probation Officer as enumerated in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.14(a).*

Court's Probation Transformation Team Earns Statewide Honor

Teamwork.

There are many ways to define that term, but the Probation Department staff at the Summit County Juvenile Court have uniquely applied that very concept to re-purpose its Probation and Intake departments. That commitment to accept the challenge of change received statewide recognition. The Probation Team was the recipient of the Tony Panzino Award for Excellence in JDAI at the Department of Youth Services (DYS) Community Recognition Awards in Columbus in late 2023. The award ceremony was part of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges Annual Meeting.

JDAI is the acronym for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative created by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 1993. It is devoted to building a better and more equitable juvenile justice system. The Summit County Juvenile Court was one of five counties in Ohio invited to serve as a JDAI model. That occurred in 2009. It is a partnership that has thrived. The Court was also one of 26 counties nationally to be recognized as a JDAI deep-end site which seeks to help juvenile justice jurisdictions safely and significantly reduce youth confinement and enhance system reforms. The latest partnership occurred when the Court was asked to become a Probation Transformation site in 2020.



Staff members stand with award namesake Tony Panzino (third from right) following the awards ceremony in Columbus where the department won the Tony Panzino Award for Excellence in JDAI from the Department of Youth Services. From left, Justin Burton, Jennifer Bond, Katy VanHorn, Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Kevin Floyd and Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

The Court enthusiastically embraced the concept. It has created a team approach to addressing issues that confront youth and families when they become Court-involved. While each team has a decidedly different client base, there is a common goal for each one: to work with the youth and their families to provide support and evidence-based interventions that will further prevent a trajectory of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Communication is a key element to the success of the Probation Department. Teams meet every week to track youth progress and rely on each other to problem solve the most difficult situations. It is a priority to include the family voice, and work with parents/care givers/guardians and youth to gather comprehensive, vital information so the Court worker can make an informed recommendation to the Judge or Magistrate hearing the case.

The staff also eliminated references to law enforcement, such as removing badges and titles that could be identified as law enforcement. This is done in hopes of engendering trust between the youth and staff and, as a result, more easily open lines of communication.

The results have been impressive. The Court has seen a 66% reduction in delinquency filings, from over 4,300 in 2009 to just over 1,400 in 2022, as well as a 76% reduction in dispositions to formal probation, from over 500 in 2009 to just 122 in 2022. Recent data also reflect that the Summit County Juvenile Court has one of the lowest rates of probation violations in the nation.

Those results were acknowledged by DYS and the person who called members of the Probation Transformation Team forward to receive the award was the man for whom the award was named. Recently retired, Tony Panzino was widely regarded as the leader of the Ohio JDAI movement in his role as Chief for the Bureau of Community Reinvestment for the DYS.

Panzino noted the long-standing commitment the Summit County Juvenile Court has had with JDAI and pointed to Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio's leadership in advancing the JDAI model. He praised the Probation Transformation Team's achieving such success in a relatively short period of time.

"There is no greater testament to the dedication and resolve of the Juvenile Probation staff of the Summit County Juvenile Court than that," said Panzino. "The Summit County Juvenile Court is at the center of juvenile justice reform in Summit County. It provides accountability, programming, and services for Court-involved youth, victims, and families with the goal of habilitation and enhancing public safety."

Special Projects and Reform Initiatives

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Special Projects Administrator

2023 saw the expansion of the Special Projects Department. Judge Teodosio saw an opportunity to bring on to the staff an education expert and recent retiree from Akron Public Schools, Lisa Johnson, to assist in filling education gaps and barriers for children and families in the Court system. Ms. Johnson joined the staff in November of 2023 as an Academic Resources Coordinator, providing assistance to youth and families with education needs including transitioning to and from residential or correctional educational settings, assisting with identifying educational options and opportunities, collecting and gathering education records used for case planning and goal setting, and any additional support related to education or academic needs including opportunities for education advancement.

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) continued to be a big part of the department's focus with continued efforts on probation transformation and the implementation of evidence-based practices and training opportunities for staff. In May of 2023, the Summit County Juvenile Court Probation Department received the Tony Panzino Excellence in Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives Award from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The department was honored to have been selected for the award over 18 other Ohio JDAI sites, and further, to be presented the award by its namesake, the long-serving Ohio Department of Youth Services Bureau Chief, Tony Panzino.

An additional accomplishment for the department came when the Court's Research Analyst, Terrie Pfeil was accepted into a Quality Improvement Professional Mentoring Program. She joins Court Continuous Quality Improvement Supervisor Jonathan Booher in the program.

The Court's Veteran Service Case Manager, Andrew Cox celebrated one year with the Court during the year. Andrew continues to be in a unique position at the Court, serving families and youth of families that have served in any branch of the U.S. military and who may benefit from assistance either navigating the youth justice system, or accessing services available to veteran's they may have otherwise experienced barriers accessing.

Under the leadership of Judge Teodosio, the Special Programs Department has been able to continue to fill in gaps and serve the public in ways unique to the juvenile justice system.

Family Resource Center and Diversion Services

Lisa Karas, Director

The Family Resource Center (FRC) specializes in providing case management to youth who are experiencing behavioral problems at home or at school. Truancy issues, violence and conflict in the home, pregnancy and/or parenting teens, job readiness, and job search are concerns that the FRC confronts, and offers solutions and guidance. Additionally, any non-violent misdemeanor that has diversion-eligible charges are processed in this unit. Families are offered the opportunity to take advantage of case management as part of the diversionary process. The goal is to strengthen families and to avoid further involvement of youth in the juvenile justice system.

In 2023, the Family Resource Center provided services to:

- 576 total clients
- 77% of those clients completed case plan goals
- 167 clients were referred to case management programming for further support as an outcome of the diversion session
- 142 out of the 167 were successfully diverted.

Families do not have to be Court-involved to receive services from the Family Resource center.

The FRC received funding through the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, County Executive.

Misdemeanor Services

This unit processes misdemeanor complaints that have failed to successfully complete diversion requirements or those that are not eligible for diversion services through the FRC. Complaints processed by Misdemeanor Services are cases that will be officially filed by the Court and processed in a Courtroom.

Here are the number of referrals to Misdemeanor Services in 2023:

	Female Charges YTD									Male Charges YTD								
	Not Noted	Asian	Black - AA	Hisp	Indian/N ative Am	Bi-Racial	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Island	White	Female Total	Not Noted	Asian	Black-AA	Hisp	Indian/N ative Am	Bi Racial	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Island	White	Male Total
M1	14	-	171	-	-	15	1	80	281	23	8	256	1	-	19	-	123	430
M2	3	-	30	-	-	6	-	12	51	10	2	116	-	-	8	-	40	176
M3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	1	18	-	-	1	-	16	38
M4	6	-	67	-	-	6	-	16	95	7	1	96	-	1	8	-	40	153
MM	2	-	13	-	-	3	-	9	27	2	3	39	-	-	8	-	23	75

Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program

Beth Cardina, Program Director

With a blend of compassion, commitment and conscientiousness, the CASA/GAL volunteers and staff work vigilantly to assure that the Court is given information that compels the Court to act in the best interests of the child.

Volunteers complete a thorough, mandatory 30- hour training program to become advocates for abused, neglected and dependent children who come in contact with the Court system through no fault of their own. Through collaboration with key service agencies and legal counsel and utilizing other community resources, the volunteers make recommendations on behalf of the child during Court hearings. The CASA/GAL volunteers investigate and monitor many facets of the child's background and make assessments to the Court based on their findings.

The Juvenile Court funds the CASA/GAL Program, but the program also receives grants from the Victims of Crime Act and the State Victims Assistance Act. Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro offers funding from Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered through the county's Department of Job and Family Services. Several local foundations, businesses and organizations also provide much-needed funding. Additionally, the local CASA Board Volunteer Association partners with the Court to assist in the mission of the program and its volunteers. The CASA Board is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that contributed over \$95,000 to the program's general operating costs in 2023.

The CASA/GAL Program also benefits from donations from the Kimberly S. Denholm Charities, as well as other community grants to under-write the program's annual Holiday Toy Shop, which purchases gifts that are selected and delivered to the children by their CASA volunteer. In 2023, over 500 children received an early and happier holiday because of the efforts of the CASA/GAL Program and their advocates.

It is the task of the 19-member staff of the CASA/GAL Program to assure that the volunteers have the materials and support that they need to see each of their cases through to a successful end. In 2023, over 175 volunteer child advocates provided a voice for approximately 800 dependent, abused, or neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of children served by the program ranks as one of the highest of any CASA/GAL Program in the state of Ohio and positions the program as one of the largest in the nation.



Judge Teodosio Named Ohio CASA Advocate of the Year

Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio was named the 2023 Ohio Child Advocate of the year at the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Association's Celebrate Kids! Conference. Judge Teodosio, Summit County's longest –serving Juvenile Court Judge, received the award from Ohio CASA Board president Joshua Eck.

The Juvenile Court's CASA/GAL program is the largest in the state of Ohio and is regarded as one of the top five largest programs in the nation.



Judge Teodosio stands with Ohio CASA Board President Joshua Eck after receiving the CASA Advocate of the Year Award.

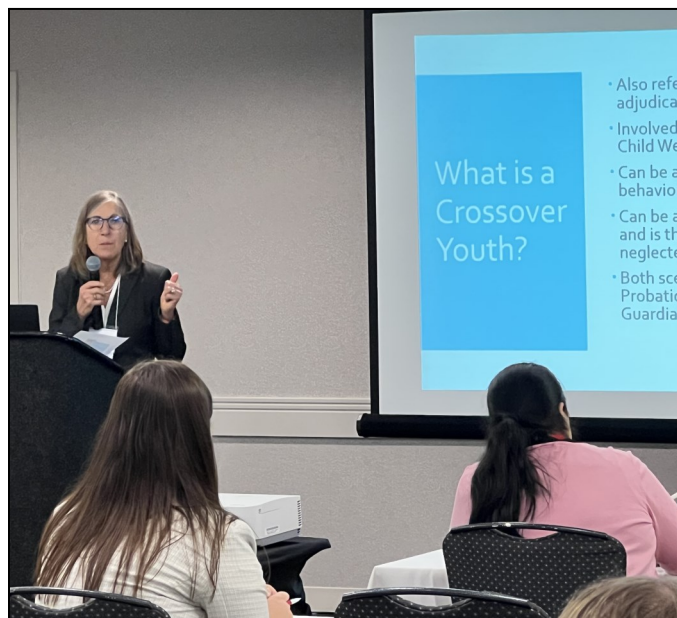
The CASA/GAL program trains volunteers to act in the best interests of children who have family issues that result in becoming Court-involved through no fault of the child. The volunteers assigned to their cases do a thorough examination of the children's home lives to determine if their needs are being met. The volunteer then reports back to CASA/GAL staff and recommendations are made to make certain the child is being cared for while the Court process is completed. There are currently over 16,00 children in care in Ohio at any given time.

The volunteers are the life blood of the program, and Judge Teodosio made that point clear in her remarks following the presentation of the award.

"My judicial career has been focused on impacting the lives of young people and families across Summit County, so I am truly honored," said Judge Teodosio. "Not only does this award highlight the work implemented in our Court, but also the commitment and collaboration we have had with our CASA volunteers for years. These volunteers give me important insight into a child's wishes so I can make the best decision for their future.

It was noted that Judge Teodosio's commitment to progressive and innovative programming for young people was central in her selection for the award. Some of the juvenile justice reforms she has implemented have served as models for other Juvenile Courts in Ohio and nationally.

Judge Teodosio lent some her expertise to volunteers, CASA staff members, attorneys and other conference attendees. She detailed strategies to assist or prevent young people in foster care from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.



Judge Teodosio presenting at the 2023 Ohio CASA/GAL Celebrate Kids Conference in Columbus.

Restore Court Program
Angela Hart, Program Coordinator

With the passage of the Safe Harbor Law by the Ohio General Assembly in 2012, local jurisdictions were provided with a template to begin addressing the growing epidemic of exploitation, which takes place in every community. Under the leadership of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, the Summit County Juvenile Court was on the cutting edge of confronting this disturbing issue when it established the Restore Court docket in January of 2015. Restore Court was the first juvenile human trafficking docket certified as a specialized docket by the Ohio Supreme Court. The mission of Restore Court is to empower youth who are at risk of exploitation or have been exploited, to resolve their court cases through education, strength-building, and case management.

When a youth is brought to the attention of the Court demonstrating risk factors of exploitation, an assessment is completed. The assessment is an evidenced based screening tool which guides a conversation taking place between the youth and a trauma trained staff member administering the assessment. If the assessment reveals that the youth could be or is at risk to become a victim of exploitation, the youth is provided the opportunity to participate in the program.

Each case receives thorough examination by the Restore Court's multidisciplinary treatment team, which provides recommendations to the Court prior to and during review hearings. The review hearings are conducted by Restore Court Magistrate, Amber Crowe, and are held to track the progress each youth is making while receiving services provided through the program.

In October of 2022, Restore Court of Summit County Juvenile Court adopted the evidence-informed Best Life Trafficking Prevention Curriculum (BLC) developed by Dr. Celia Williamson. Since October 2022 through December 2023, 27 youth participated in BLC through Restore Court:

- 10 were docket participants, and 6 received case management only
- 11 were high-risk for trafficking and 5 were identified victims
- 13 were female, 3 male
- 10 were white, 5 black, 1 biracial
- Average age - 16

Over the course of 8 sessions, BLC assessments revealed:

- Increased knowledge of human trafficking and resources
- Demonstrations of empathy
- Better understanding of how to identify and respond to risky situations
- Increased awareness of how to establish personal safety and boundaries
- Increased likelihood of safely responding to risky situations
- Greater understanding of identifying and responding to unhealthy relationships
- Improved self-esteem
- Greater awareness of local resources

Since joining Restore Court:

- Most youth increased pro-social activities and school attendance, improved their grades, and decrease substance use.
- Youth and guardians indicated they were getting along better with friends and family, doing better at work/school, and had greater support networks.

There has been significant progress made since the Restore Court docket was implemented. No doubt, there are challenges which will always confront those who are impacted by exploitation. Yet, Restore Court offers something even greater than the myriad of services it provides; it offers much needed hope.

Family Re-unification through Recovery Court (FRRC)

Constance Sales, Program Coordinator

There is nothing more important than family, and when that bond is threatened because of the actions of one member of the family, the effect of that action resonates throughout the entire family unit. Once a case has been referred to The Family Re-unification through Recovery Court (FRRC), the FRRC staff and its community partners are determined to complete a twofold mission: to strengthen the family unit and to assist a parent with finding the inner-strength to recover from the addiction that led to an official action that resulted in the separation of parent and children from the home.

The process is set in motion when Summit County Children Services identifies a parent with substance misuse issues serious enough to intervene and take temporary custody or protective supervision of any children in the home, it contacts the Court and makes a referral to the FRRC. If program qualifications are met, the parent will be given a case plan from the FRRC Treatment Team aimed at recovery. The Treatment Team also makes recommendations and reports progress to the FRRC Magistrate during regular review hearings. Other family members will have services provided for them to assure their individual needs are addressed.

Once the parent successfully completes the requirements of the program, which places a premium on remaining substance-free, the program will move to reunite the family.

The FRRC received its re-certification as a Specialized Docket in 2015 from the Ohio Supreme Court. Selected staff members from the Court, Children Services and other agency professionals associated with the FRRC program received specialized training underwritten by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Ohio Supreme Court has recertified the FRRC as a specialized docket three times.

In 2023, seven parents graduated from the program and 19 participants remain in the program as carryovers from 2022. The program's population remains largely female, with the majority of them in the 25-35 age range. Their children typically are in the 0-3 age range. Unfortunately, the continuation of the opiate crisis is reflected in the FRRC population, though this trend was turning as more participants are presenting with methamphetamine abuse as well as alcohol.

Since the program's inception, it has enrolled 104 participants and 38 have successfully completed the program. Most of the children in the FRRC program are in kinship homes as opposed to foster care, which supports the emotional well-being of children as well as assists in transitioning back to their parent's care.

Multidisciplinary Representation Team

The Summit County Juvenile Multidisciplinary Representation Team (MRT) Pilot began serving parents in February 2021 as part of a statewide project funded by the Ohio Supreme Court with federal Court Improvement Project dollars to help improve outcomes for parents and children involved in child welfare disputes through improved legal representation.

The Court was awarded \$157,500 for 2023 in its second full year of the pilot. When a case is referred and filed and a child is removed from the home, the MRT may be randomly assigned to the parent from whom the child was removed. Parents are not eligible for MRT if there is an allegation of severe physical abuse or sexual abuse of the child by the parent or if the parent can be identified as a potential candidate for the Court's Family Drug Treatment Court.

The MRT team consists of two social work case coordinators employed by the Court and two parent advocates with lived experience, trained and employed by Greenleaf Family Center, who assist the assigned defense attorney selected from a pool of qualified participating attorneys (currently eight Summit County attorneys are on the list to receive MRT cases). One Case Coordinator and one advocate are assigned to each MRT case as part of the defense team. They then assist the attorney outside of the courtroom to help parents meet all of their Summit County Children's Services (SCCS) case plan goals quickly and thoroughly, while keeping the assigned attorney updated on the parent's progress and removing barriers to success. Their efforts include linkage to housing, job opportunities, transportation, health services, etc.

In 2023, 22 new cases were assigned to MRT. Several hundred referrals to services were made by MRT coordinators, including 144 referrals to transportation services, 106 referrals to housing resources, 59 to employment opportunities, and 192 referrals to health/mental health and other services (e.g. food, clothing, Job & Family Services, etc.). Since the beginning of the pilot in 2021, more than 34 children have been reunited with their MRT parent, and 30% of the parents receiving MRT services as of January 1, 2023 and after achieved successful reunification with their children.

The Parent Project

Natasha Ervin and Jimmy Oliver, Program Facilitators

The Parent Project is a curriculum-based model designed to provide assistance to parents looking to apply some behavioral interventions in the home. The program asks that participants devote 10 consecutive weeks to the program to get its full benefit.

Participants will be introduced to a proven curriculum that will provide evidence-based solutions that will aid in reducing a parent's stress level, improve their child's opportunity for a productive future, enhance their relationship with their child, and offer coping skills. All of this will take place in an adults-only, supportive, and safe environment.

Communication is a key component of The Parent Project. Participants will be encouraged to network with other members of the group, as well as social service agencies in the community and, of course, their child. In 2023, 41 individuals completed the program. The program also entered into a partnership with Akron Public Schools in 2023, offering the same curriculum parents of APS students. In two sessions, 15 parents graduated from the Parent Project.

Veteran's Resources
Andrew Cox, Case Manager

One of the primary goals of the Summit County Juvenile Court is to investigate every method possible to keep a family intact. However, there are times when circumstances prevent that. It is then that the Court reverts to addressing the issues that separated the family and introduces programming aimed to re-unify the family.

In mid-October 2022, the Summit County Juvenile Court became the first juvenile court in Ohio to focus on another demographic: veterans.

Andrew Cox, an 18-year Air Force veteran, works as the Court's Veteran's Resource Case Manager. Cox works with veterans who become Court-involved and are facing custody issues. There is a healthy infrastructure of organizations that aid veterans in Summit County. Networking with those organizations is vital to accessing grants, counseling, and other benefits for those parents who are referred to him. He will help guide them through the process of obtaining aid that is uniquely designed for veterans by linking them with community-based resources. Cox will develop individual case plans for each person with the ultimate goal of family reunification.

Another responsibility for Cox will be providing assistance to Court-involved youth. Often, a youth will infer that he or she is interested in joining the military. Cox will be able to provide advice and insight as to what branch of the military might be the most suitable for the youth.

In 2023, the Court's Veteran's Resources department worked with 42 veterans. Among the services, counseling, and networking provided and outcomes included:

- Seven youth mentored about military as the military as a career path
- Ten veterans reunited with their children
- Three parental custody orders changed to the State of Ohio
- Three veterans relinquished their parental rights
- Three veteran referrals from Family Resource Center
- Eight veterans connected with housing services
- The remaining veterans are still receiving services
- Connected veterans with services with the Veterans Affairs, Summit, Stark, and Cuyahoga Counties Veteran Service Commissions. Utilized the Community Support Services, Support Services for Veterans Families (CSS/SSVF), Family Community Services, Military Family Services (FCS/MFS), Warriors Journey Home, National Leadership Program (Pittsburgh), North Carolina Veterans and Military Services, Hawaii Veterans Affairs, and others.
- Coordinated with Air Force to collect and send DNA from Military father while deployed overseas, had it sent and processed to the lab for analysis for parental match.
- Worked with military parents from Missouri, Hawaii, Texas, and Arizona.

Citizens Review Board
Magistrate Rita Rochford, Coordinator

The Citizen's Review Board (CRB) consists of four separate boards of community volunteers with a background in social work, criminal justice, education, medicine, behavioral health or other significant community involvement who were appointed by Judge Teodosio. The function of the CRB is to determine whether the best interests of children in Dependency, Neglect and Abuse cases are being met. Each board meets twice a month to review the standing of children who have been placed in the permanent custody of Summit County Children Services. The reviews seek to ensure that the children are receiving proper assistance, and that Children Services is working to expedite the child's permanency plan, which is typically adoption.

CRB members review each case at least once every six months and, if necessary, more often than that. Working with Magistrate Rochford, the Board has the authority to issue orders during review hearings.

In 2023, the Citizen's Review Board reviewed the cases of 132 children in permanent custody and conducted 375 review hearings.

The Citizen's Review Board operates pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and is supervised by Magistrate Rita Rochford under the direct authority of Judge Teodosio.

Child Responsibility Project/Community Service
Jeffrie Pope, Program Coordinator

Accountability is a key component to juvenile justice, and accountability is at the forefront of the Child Responsibility Project (CRP). For lower-level offenses, in particular, community service and restitution to the victims of their offense(s) are two common sanctions. It is the responsibility of the CRP staff to assure the conditions of those dispositions are met.

CRP staff supervises youth at work sites where youth earn a wage of \$10 an hour that will be paid directly to the victim up to \$1,000. The wages are paid through a grant provided by the RECLAIM Ohio program. CRP staff tracks the amount of hours each youth works in the program. In 2023, 51 youth were referred to the CRP and their work totaled \$26,585.79 of restitution to the victims. In all, the youth completed 701 hours.

The CRP staff also is responsible for tracking items donated by youth to the Special Projects program. Devised by Judge Teodosio and implemented in 2003, the program offers youth the option to earn credit for eight hours of ordered community service by purchasing \$40 worth of toys, food, or school supplies that will be donated to the needy in Summit County. In 2023, donations totaled \$160 for clothing, \$760 for food items, and \$280 for toys for a total of \$1,200.

The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court

For seven decades, the Women's Board has provided a unique service to the Juvenile Court performing countless acts of kindness and charity for the youth in the Detention Center and the staff members of the Court.

Board members also routinely hold reward nights in the Detention Center for youth who have earned it by performing at positive levels. The members provide more than occasional treats for the Detention youth. The ladies also host a luncheon for Court staff every February. Six of its members have been named the Court's Volunteer of the Year including current members Jane Hutmacher (2012) and Kim Ray (2013) and, in 2018, Carol Reagan.

The volunteers of the Women's Board trade in kindness. It's their specialty. Their generosity has aided hundreds upon hundreds of Court staff, Court-involved youth through the years. The Board continues to enlist the help of people who volunteers, and the Board, in 2023, numbered over 40 volunteers.

The members of the Women's Board continued their incredible dedication to the Court, logging 1,300 volunteer hours. It is believed that the Women's Board is the only such organization serving a Juvenile Court. That is appropriate, because the Women's Board is truly one of a kind.

Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court *

Bruce Alexander	Natasha Ervin	Kandice Lacy	Alisha Smith
David Arman	Cheryl Evans	Jennifer Lewis	April Smith
Rebecca Armstrong	Cara Wolfgram Evans	Zaire Lewis	Thomas Smith
Hannah Ashton	Tye Evans	Mary Lorenzo	Tierra Smith
Dorothy Askew		Laura Lynd-Robinson	Erika Sommerville
Vanessa Askew	Chanin Faith		Leland Stewart
Geoffrey Auerbach	Holly Farah	Robert McCarty	Tammy Stiles
	Chris Fergus	Doug McDougal	Isaac Stoudemire
Nicole Bachman	Tremain Fields	Madison McKeever	
Joseph Baglieri	David Fish	Tillman Manuel III	Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Kyle Banit	Michael Fleming	Dawne Marlowe	Adam Testa
Lee Banks	Kevin Floyd	Allison Marquis	Sarah Testa
Kenzie Barclay	Dylan Fouse	Nathaniel Martin	Woody Tyrrell
Tammy Barnes	Kayla Fredey	Stacey Mathieu	
Dalcynthia Barnett	Charlene Freeman	Tonya May	Mariah Uhl
Paul Beal	Francine Freeman	Paul Mays	Don Ursetti
Pamela Bennett	Thomas Freeman	Daniel Meeks	
Bob Bickett	Alan Futo	Mary Ann Mendlik	Katy Van Horn
Diana Black		Rebecca Miller	Heather Vincent
Jameesha Blakely	Malcolm Gaston	Kandy Monroe	
Keith Bolden	Susan Gatts	Mariah Montes Torres	Fred Wagner
Christina Bollman	Laura Geer	Ciara Morris	Charity Wallenhurst
Tiffany Bollman	Errick Gerback	Leslie Morris	Angela Walls-Alexander
Jennifer Bond	Melissa Gerney	Lynda Mullins	James Warner II
Jon Booher	Callie Gerzanics	Adam Murphy	Jordynn Watkins
Jerald Brannon	Kevin Gladney	Lora Mycoskie	Katie Williams
Debra Briggs	Katherine Good		Kelly Williams
Tyler Britton	Don Guthrie	Juanantonio Nieves	Nathaniel Williams
Welby Broaddus			Timothy Williams
Bryan Bryce	Heidi Day Hall	Jimmy Oliver	Tracy Williams
Myles Burdick	Tandaleyo Hall		Eddie Winstead
Gervaise Burks	Antonio Hammonds	Rodney Parson	Christopher Wolfe
Justin Burton	Deontre Harrison	Terrie Pfeil	
	Angela Hart	Zachary Pfeil	Joan Zito
Brenda Calderhead	Sarah Harvan	Lori Phillips	
Kate Calla	Myron Hatch	Andrew Poda	
Beth Cardina	Shearonte Hayes	Bailey Pollitt	
Samuel Chambers	Nathan Hendon	Tiffany Poole	
Tynesha Church	Katie Herman	Jeff Pope	
Rollin Clayton	Gregory Higgins	Kevin Pratt	
Daniel Cody	LaTonya Hill		
Ebony Coleman	Victoria Hill	Mia Radford	
Andrew Cox	Kandy Hixson	Milton Rankins	
Joseph Cregan	Karen Holmes	Rotisha Ratchford	
Amber Crowe	Erica Hopkins	Samantha Reed	
	David Horner	Rhonda Riddle	
Jessie Dancy	Chad Horstman	Jekamiah Elmore Riggins	
Felicia Daniels	Curtis Howard	Rita Rochford	
Amy Datsko	Katherine Hullum	Lisa Rotondo	
Danielle Davis	Nicole Huntsman	Sally Roupe	
Eric Davis			
William Davis	Lakeia Id Deen	Constance Sales	
Stephanie DeLeo		Stephen Saxon	
Tyler Devenport	Perry James	Lee Ann Schaffer	
Lisa DiSabato-Moore	Lisa Johnson	Danielle Schantz	
Amanda Dodson	Andre Jones	Todd Schaufler	
Sharness Dowdy		Christina Serrano	
Alice Duey	Lisa Karas	Candise Settles	
Kory Dunaway	Christine Kasper	Tiffany Sieg	
Kristen Duvall	Rachel Kassinger	Renee Sipe	
Austin Dykes	Joe Kernan	Annie Skapin	
	Adam Krider	Joseph Slaton	
Lisa Eagle	Getta Kutuchief	Triston Smead	

* list includes part-time employees, interns, and employees who worked a portion of 2023 at the Court.



Turning lives around one child at a time.

The **2023 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

