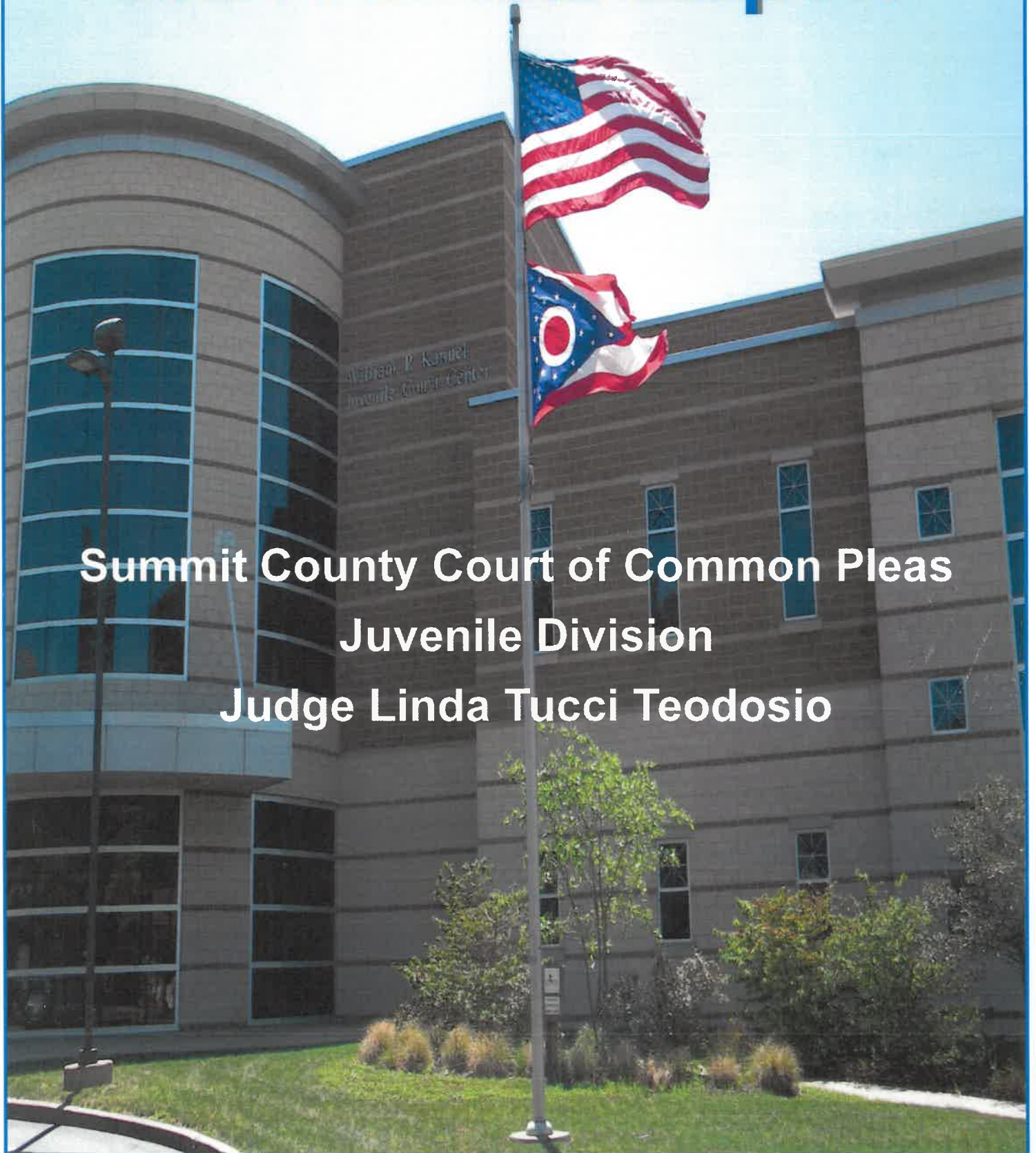


2024 Annual Report

**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, Dianne Curtis, David Fish, Thomas Freeman, Laura Lynd-Robinson, Robert McCarty, Douglas McDougal, Mary Ann Mendlik, Milton Rankins, Rita Rochford, Danielle Schantz, 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 2024 Summit County Juvenile court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled \$17,967,407

General Office/Judicial	\$3,073,081	RECLAIM Ohio	\$5,255,117	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$14,579,833
Probation/Administration	2,158,822	Title IV-E	537,454	Contract Service	2,641,358
Detention Center	<u>4,164,937</u>	TitleXX/TANF Job Re-entry	119,402	Other	<u>746,216</u>
Total County Funding	\$9,396,840	Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice	354,169		\$17,967,407
		Victims of Crime	86,842		
		Victims of Human Trafficking	185,000		
		National School Lunch Program	115,437		
		Title XX Guardian ad Litem	583,000		
		TANF XX Family Resource Center	725,339		
		State Victims Assistance	3,057		
		Supreme Court MRT	120,000		
		CASA Volunteer Board	97,384		
		Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy	135,000		
		Summit Co. ADM Detention MH Services	245,346		
		Casey Foundation	8,020		
		Total State/Federal Grant Funding	\$8,570,567		

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

<u>SERVICE PROVIDER</u>	<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
Electronic Monitoring	
Oriana House, Inc.	175,000.00
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	250,000.00
Parent Advocate Program	
Greenleaf Family Center	140,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services	
Various local agencies	40,000.00
Mentoring	
Various local agencies	70,000.00
Competency Evaluations	
Various local agencies	75,000.00
Community Service/Restitution Program	
Funds to Victims	50,000.00
Long Term out of Home Placement	
Various Placement Agencies	200,000.00
Diversion Programming	
Distributed in varying amounts to 11 Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices	202,000.00
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program	
Village Network	145,000.00

2024 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 1,846 bed-days (an increase of 49% from fiscal year 2023.) The Court yielded \$3,644,978.24 or an 11% share of available variable RECLAIM funds. The Court also received allocations of \$705,857.00 from the Youth Services Grant, \$351,896 for Targeted RECLAIM, \$30,000 for Competitive RECLAIM, \$332,669.09 for BHJJ, and \$559,000 for Year-End Evidence-Based Program Development. All totaled, in Fiscal Year 2024, the Court received \$5,624,400.33 from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Additional 2024 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 2024, totaled \$2,279,828. 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 2024 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 571 youth and family members in 2024. ***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, \$340,000: ***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 and 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. Upon their release from 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 and 10 or more adult caregivers annually who are victims of human trafficking or at high risk to become victims of human trafficking. Restore Court is a state certified specialized docket. ***Federal Title XX/TANF funds are provided and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Resources, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Specialized Docket funds were received in 2024 for the Court's three Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets: ***Crossroads, for youth with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders; Restore Court, for youth who are victims or at risk to become victims of human trafficking; and the Family Reunification through Recovery Court.*** Combined, the three problem-solving courts received **\$135,000** from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services under state of Ohio House Bill 483.

The **Supreme Court of Ohio** provided **\$75,000** for year four 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.



Turning lives around one child at a time.



Additional Funding, con't

Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem or 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. ***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 2024 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.

The State of Ohio Attorney General's Office awarded \$28,700 to the Court in 2024 for an upgrade to the case management system to facilitate/improve the Court's ability to electronically report juvenile adjudications and fingerprints. The Court also received a new electronic fingerprinting device to help meet this objective.



Turning lives around one child at a time.



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 and accompanying 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, and successfully achieving reaccreditation in 2018, 2021 and 2024.

Virtual technology (ZOOM) remains a part of Detention's visitation options. This allows more flexibility to parents/guardians who may not have transportation and/or schedule conflicts during in-person visit times. This technology has also allowed many Court proceedings to move forward, including those that are scheduled with the General Division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court, without the need to transport juveniles outside of the facility.

Education remains an important facet of Detention Center operations. Akron Public Schools provides all educational programming and delivers 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.

A book club has also been recently established. Re-entry Coordinator Kathy Hullum created the book club as an educational and social interaction opportunity. Volunteering her time, Ms. Hullum allows the youth to choose the topic they'd like to read and she finds an appropriate book for them to read and to subsequently discuss their impressions of the book's subject matter. It has grown so popular that every male youth in Detention has become a member, and named their group, "Mind Readers." The exposure to reading and the dialogue it inspired resulted in a speech and poetry competition conducted late in 2024 in which six youth participated. It is an experience that will be scheduled on an annual basis.

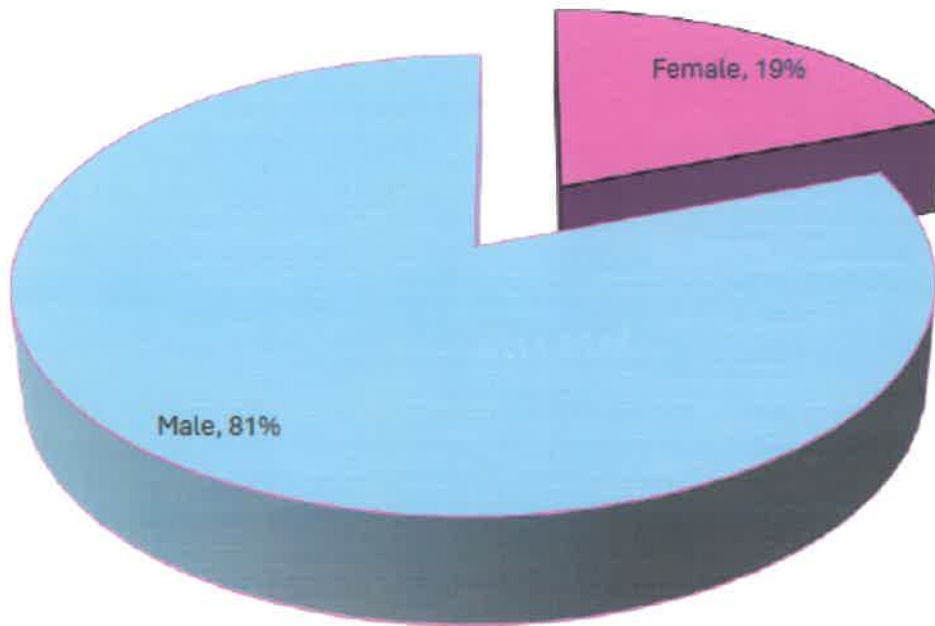
The Detention Center has a garden and greenhouse where youth plant and grow a variety of fruits and vegetables. With the assistance of staff from The Ohio State University, Summit County Extension, 4-H staff (OSU Extension), youth also receive educational programming in the areas of agriculture, horticulture and natural resources. They also participate in 4H STEM through OSU Extension, using iPads with the Sketches app, allowing youth to express themselves through a digital art medium as well as learning the fundamental components of app development.

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 and chemical dependency assessments are conducted to assess the individual needs of each juvenile. Group sessions are provided and individual counseling sessions are conducted.

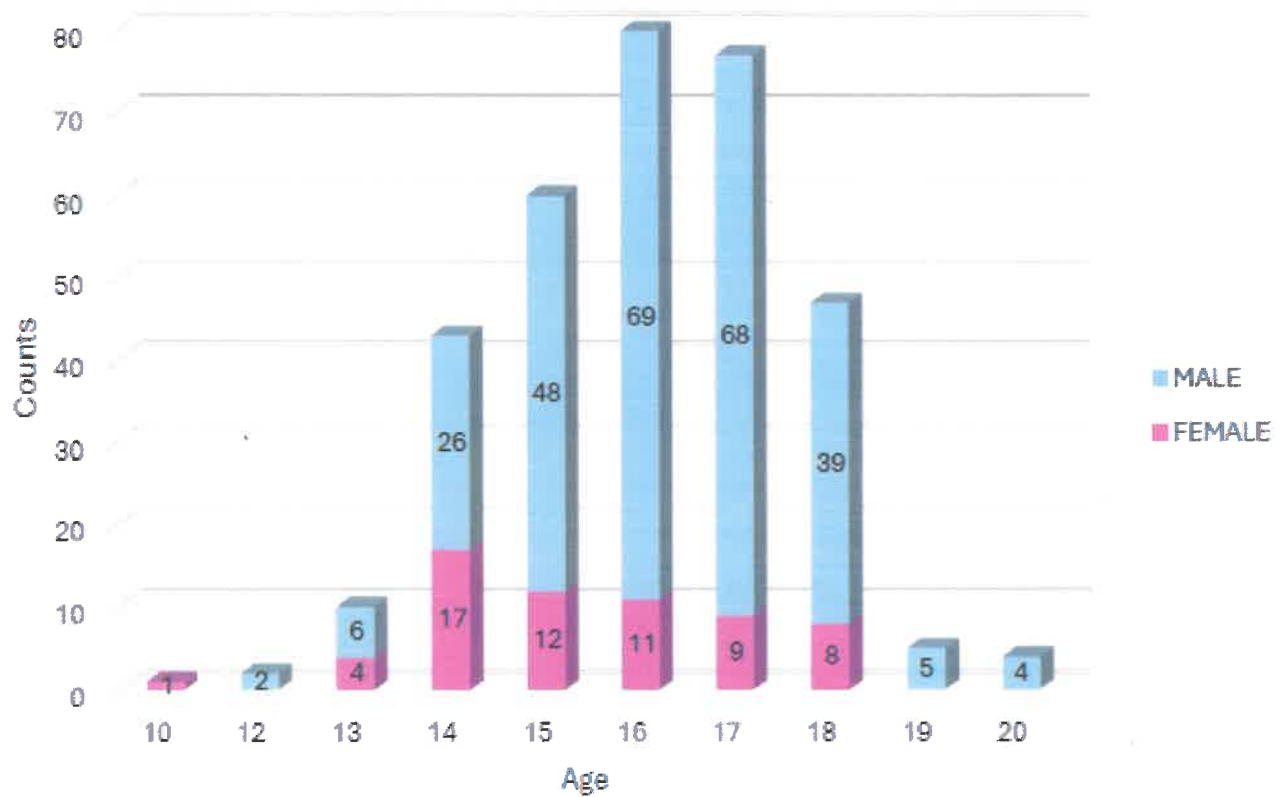
The Women's Board continues to provide bi-monthly rewards parties and holiday parties. In addition to the programming highlighted above, yoga, pickleball, art, religious services, mentoring services, and library services continue to be offered to all youth in the Detention Center.

2024 Detention Center Statistics

Admissions



Detention Admits by Gender and Age



Juvenile Court Detention Center Recertified by ACA

The Summit County Juvenile Court's Detention Center received its third re-accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA). The ACA is nationally and internationally recognized as the standard-bearer for best practices in corrections. The Court received its first ACA accreditation in 2015. Representatives of the Court, Detention Superintendent Melissa Gerney, Special Projects Administrator Lisa DiSabato-Moore, and Detention Supervisor Katherine Good received the accreditation certificate in Nashville in late August.

The recertification is the final facet of the process that began in April when ACA auditors Larry Gallagher, Bonnie Holley, and Chairperson Ruben Reyes visited the Detention Center over a three-day period. They conducted interviews with staff members and examined the Detention Center's compliance with ACA standards. When the audit was completed, the ACA representatives met with members of the Court staff led by Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio to deliver their findings.



From left, Katherine Good, Melissa Gerney, and Lisa DiSabato-Moore with the accreditation certificate awarded the Juvenile Court's Detention Center by the American Correctional Association in Nashville.

There were two sets of standards advanced by the ACA, one with 31 standards, the other, a more exhaustive 392 standards. The auditors noted that 377 of those standards were applicable to the Detention Center. For the first set of standards, the auditors revealed the Detention Center was in 100% compliance. For the second set of standards, the result was the same: 100% compliance.

Chairperson Reyes indicated how professional he and his colleagues found Court staff, from third shift in Detention to Court administration. He admired the sense of teamwork in Detention. He observed how well Detention Officers interacted with an unruly youth and de-escalating the situation. He believed the youth in Detention were safe and cared for in their units. He pointed to how well data for the Court was so accessible and user-friendly. The auditors were also impressed with the programming in place. Reyes had particular praise for Detention Superintendent Melissa Gerney.

"In watching you work with staff, we found you focused, fearless, and a fixer," Reyes stated. "You are a class act running a classy facility. We wondered how we could let you know how much we appreciate the work you've done here, so we decided on this." And with that, the three auditors rose from their seats to give Melissa Gerney a standing ovation. Her colleagues did the same.

The auditors then turned their attention to Judge Teodosio.

Said Reyes, "It starts at the top. We have seen what you have done with this Court. You set the tone and I can tell you, the admiration you have from your staff is real."

Judge Teodosio responded by saying, "It is always good to have an objective point of view, another set of eyes, if you will, observing how we work here. I am so proud of my staff. I know they worked hard to prepare for the audit, but they work hard all the time."

"Judge Teodosio," said, Reyes, "I am confident that in 100 years your name will still be mentioned for all the work you have done with this Court."

When the representatives of the Court went to Nashville for the final summary, they found that the examination of the Detention Center mirrored the words of the auditors.

The summary stated, "Through careful review, planning, scrutiny, and the many initiatives implemented by the Summit County Juvenile Court under the direction of nationally recognized Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, the facility strives to serve only those youth it needs to, and only for as long as they need to be served."

The summary outlined the audit of every facet of Detention Center operations: academics, environmental conditions, fire safety, food service, library access, medical care, records, recreation, religious programming, sanitation, security, social services, and visitation. Each area was considered equal to ACA standards.

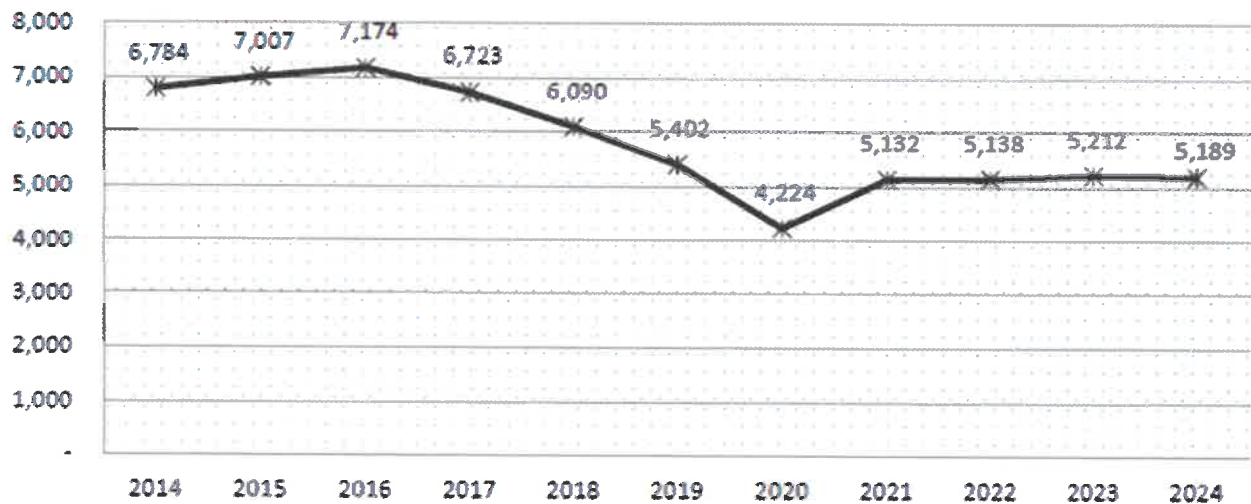
The summary concluded by offering, "The facility has a core group of experienced veteran staff that are depended upon, and unselfishly go above and beyond to support the program."

By the Numbers—Case Filings for 2024

	2023	2024												2024 Totals	2024 % of Total
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
DL	107	90	114	111	85	112	94	120	87	116	129	96	85	1,239	23.88%
TR	109	90	102	106	81	105	107	95	82	107	112	70	74	1,131	21.80%
DN	78	74	55	73	87	81	47	103	65	68	74	69	65	861	16.59%
FS	13	23	43	47	52	76	54	55	14	9	38	21	48	480	9.25%
UN	18	21	47	47	46	54	34	39	12	20	39	29	45	433	8.34%
RF	53	44	32	45	30	54	17	22	43	35	33	47	35	437	8.42%
RT	52	51	50	130	77	52	1	-	-	1	27	43	62	494	9.52%
LC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
GP	7	2	6	3	4	7	2	7	24	14	3	4	2	78	1.50%
PS	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	5	0.10%
CT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
PO	2	3	3	2	1	2	3	3	-	2	1	1	2	23	0.44%
TM	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	1	1	-	8	0.15%
Total	440	398	452	564	464	543	362	446	329	374	457	382	418	5,189	100.00%

Key: DL Delinquency UN Unruly LC LC Legal Custody CT Contributing (Adult)
 TR Traffic RF Referral/Unofficial GP Grandparent PO Protection Order
 DN Dependency/Neglect/Abuse RT Referral/Truancy PS Permanent Surrender TM Transferred Care
 FS Failure to Send

Case Filings 2014 - 2024

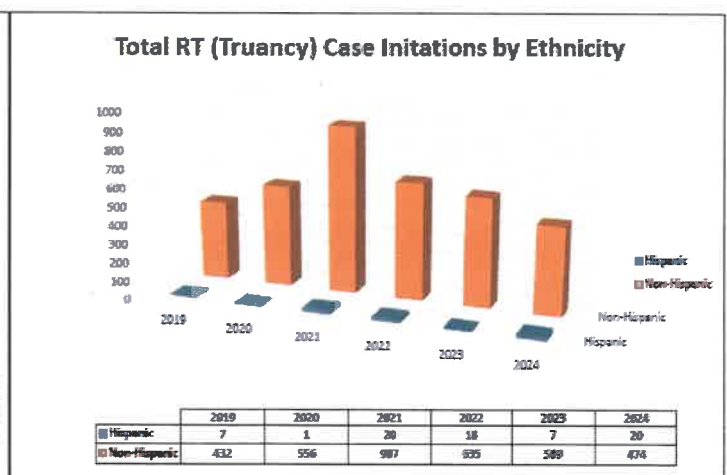
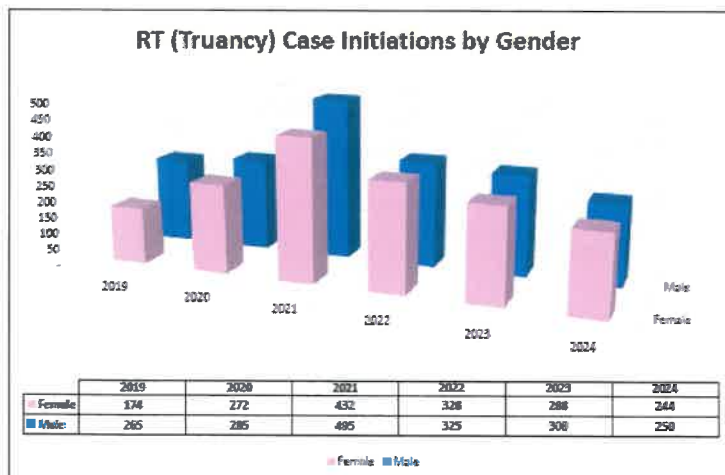


2024 By the Numbers - Misdemeanor and Truancy Filings

	2023		2024		YTD % +/- Previous year
RF AND RT	Dec	YTD	Dec	YTD	
MISDEMEANOR					
THEFT	10	94	11	88	-6%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	21	117	5	101	-14%
MISCONDUCT INVOLVING A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM	-	-	4	6	100%
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	1	37	3	34	-8%
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	1	35	2	32	-9%
AGGRAVATED MENACING	-	6	2	7	17%
ILLEGAL USE OR POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	1	13	1	10	-23%
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	2	44	1	20	-55%
OFFENSES INVOLVING UNDERAGE PERSONS	-	22	1	20	-9%
MENACING	2	15	1	9	-40%
STATUS					
UNRULY CHILD DEFINED	65	729	77	644	-12%

		RFs and RTs with a Successful Diversion Disposition in 2024																		
	Not Noted	Female										Male								
Case Type	Not Noted	Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Ameri/Es kimo	Bi-Racial	Native HI/Paci Island	White	Total	Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Ameri/Es kimo	Bi-Racial	Native HI/Paci and	White	Total	Total
RF	-	16	1	72	-	-	1	-	44	134	18	5	62	-	-	4	-	72	161	295
RT	-	6	-	30	1	-	7	-	38	82	5	4	44	1	-	9	-	42	105	187
Total	-	22	1	102	1	-	8	-	82	216	23	9	106	1	-	13	-	114	266	482

		RFs and RTs with a Failed Diversion Disposition in 2024																		
	Not Noted	Female										Male								
Case Type	Not Noted	Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Amer/Eskimo	Bi-Racial	Native HI/Paci Island	White	Total	Not Noted	Asian	Black-African Ameri	Hisp	Indian Native Amer/Eskimo	Bi-Racial and	Native HI/Paci Island	White	Total	Total
RF	-	2	3	49		-	1	-	21	76	3	-	57	3	-	3	-	13	79	155
RT	-	5	5	85	-	-	16	-	36	147	3	4	80	-	-	13	-	43	143	290
Total	-	7	8	134	-	-	17	-	57	223	6	4	137	3	-	16	-	56	222	445



Clerk's Office
Stacey Mathieu, Chief Deputy Clerk

The Clerk's Office is the epicenter of all Court activity. Every filing must be cleared through this office. Whether it is a Court staff member, a member of a family, an attorney, a prosecutor, a victim of an offense, or a member of the general public, the Clerk's Office is the informational hub. If data is needed about a case, the request must go through this 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 fiscal year.

In 2024, the Clerk's Office collected a total of \$160,664.58. The following is a breakdown of those monies:

Computer & Legal Research, Application, County, Clerk, & Special Fees, Victims of Crime: \$70,892.19

Traffic Fines & Costs, Indigent Drivers, Treatment, Defense, and Legal Aid Funds: \$62,220.00

Restitution: \$14,272.39

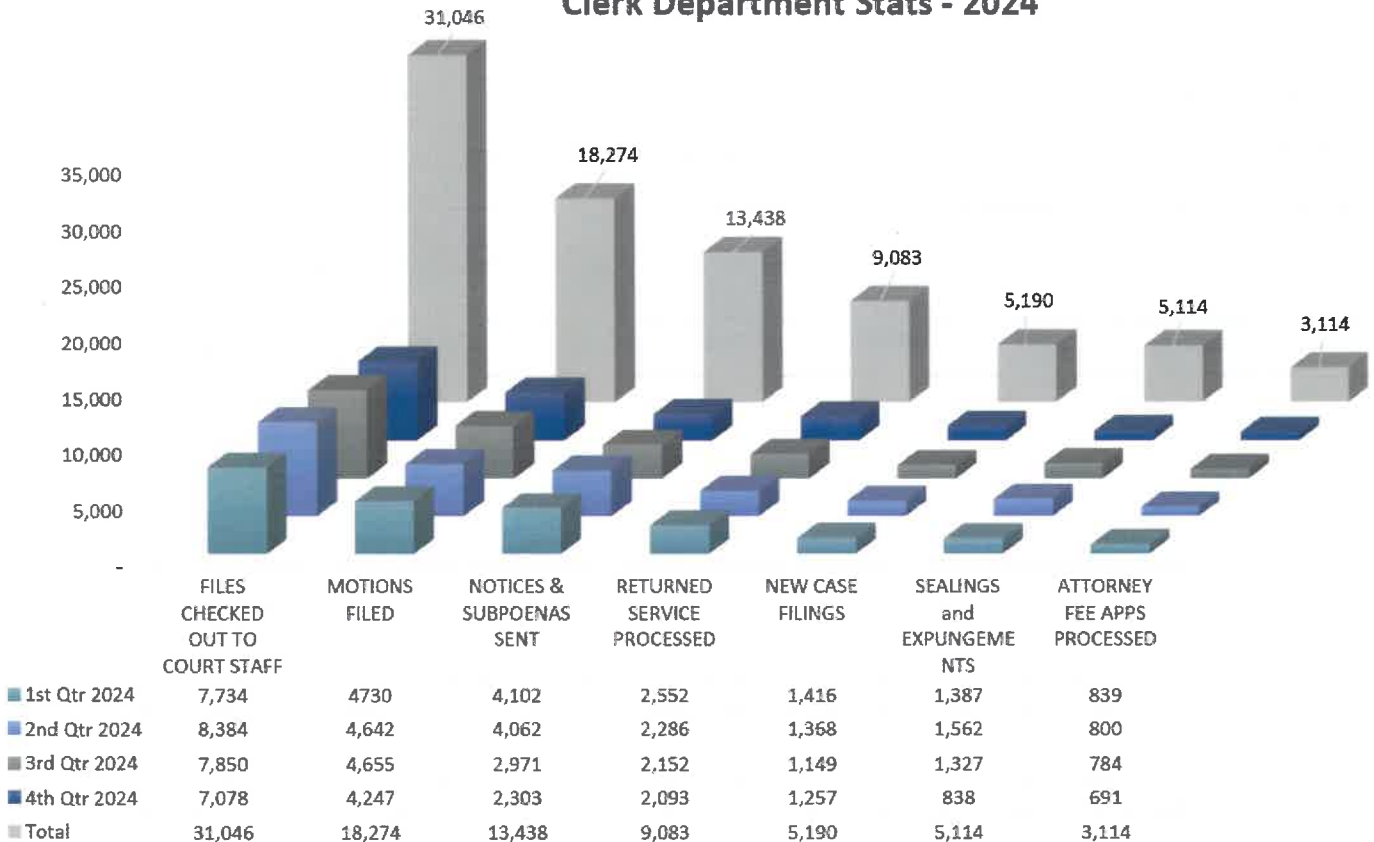
Virtual Driver Assessment Fees: \$6,197.50

Staying Accident Free Through Education (SAFTE) Driver Intervention Program: \$4,900.00

Payment of Fines and Costs in Adult, Delinquency, and Unruly Cases: \$710.00

Juvenile Court Clerk Fund (GAL): \$472.50

Clerk Department Stats - 2024



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, if committed by an adult, 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 for the youth and families that we serve.

Traditional Probation: The Juvenile Probation Program focuses on improving outcomes for youth by incorporating evidence-based interventions and practices. The probation department utilizes several evidence-based practices, including Motivational Interviewing and Carey Guides to effectively support behavior change and promote positive outcomes for youth. In 2024, a new intervention was added to our playbook. All probation staff participated in an eight-week training program called Rewire CBT. Rewire CBT is a seven-skill cognitive behavioral therapy approach specifically designed to help young people learn and practice the skills they need to heal from trauma and make healthier decisions. This model equips youth with practical tools to understand their thoughts and emotions, develop healthier coping strategies, and make more positive life choices. By integrating Rewire CBT into probation practices, Case Managers aim to create a consistent, trauma-informed environment where staff and youth can engage in meaningful, skill-building interactions that foster resilience and long-term emotional well-being.

In 2024, Traditional Probation had 124 new admissions and 104 successful terminations.

Offender Specific Probation: Offender-Specific Probation is an intensive level of supervision designed for juveniles adjudicated for sexual offenses. In addition to adhering to all standard rules and conditions of probation, participants in this specialized track are court-ordered to complete comprehensive assessments and evaluations tailored to youth with problematic sexual behaviors. Youth are required to engage in evidence-based therapeutic interventions, which include individual, group, and family counseling. Weekly rehabilitative group sessions focus on developing healthy coping strategies, building empathy, enhancing social skills, and addressing underlying behavioral issues. Participants are also assigned amends projects as part of their accountability and restoration process. Active parental or guardian participation is a mandatory component of this probation program, ensuring a collaborative and supportive approach to rehabilitation.

In 2024, 14 youth were placed on Offender-Specific Probation, and 21 youth successfully completed the program.**

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 2024, the program had 9 new admissions and 6 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.

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

*** Several of these youth were assigned to Offender-Specific Probation prior to calendar year 2024*

Special Projects and Reform Initiatives

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Special Projects and Reform Administrator.

For the second consecutive year, 2024 saw an expansion of the Special Projects Department at the Juvenile Court. The department grew to five members including Administrator Lisa DiSabato-Moore. The Summit County Juvenile Court has a reputation for innovation and the Special Programs Department is home to some unique services and offerings led by some very passionate individuals with specific areas of expertise.

Kathy Hullum joined the Special Projects Department as the Programs and Reentry Coordinator, with a particular focus on developing community partnerships aimed at advancing programming for youth in the Detention Center. Ms. Hullum acts as an ambassador for the Court in the community and the many partners committed to serving our youth-aimed family populations.

The unit also welcomed the return of Kandy Hixson, the Court's Case Expeditor. Ms. Hixson is responsible for oversight for the Detention Alternatives Release Program (DARP), which was designed as a detention alternative allowing for the safe release of youth from the detention facility into the community using intensive supervision and global positioning system tracking. In the past calendar year, 82% of the youth released on DARP were successful. The youth were able to maintain in the community throughout the duration of their pending case with the Court.

Data and Research Analyst Terrie Pfeil celebrated 10 years with the Court and continued her charge of maintaining data for the Court and providing it in such a way that is user friendly and supports the Court's commitment to make data driven decisions.

Andrew Cox, the Court's Veteran Service Case Manager, continued his work with youth showing an interest in military careers, and those family members involved with the Court who have served in any branch of the United State military and may be in need of assistance navigating barriers to and accessing benefits and services they are due.

Lisa Johnson, the Court's Academic Resources Coordinator, completed her first year of service at the Court working with staff to address obstacles to all things education related. Ms. Johnson functions as a resource for her coworkers and as a conduit between school systems countywide. She also serves as a liaison between the Court and educators in the community and in residential congregate care placement agencies where children have become involved.

Family Resource Center and Diversion Services

Lisa Karas, Director

The Family Resource Center (FRC) specializes in providing case management to youth 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 2024, the Family Resource Center provided services to:

- 571 total clients
- 73% completed case plan goals
- 160 clients were referred to case management programming for further support as an outcome of the diversion session.

126 out of 160 (79%) 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.

Information Required by House Bill 410 on Habitual Truancy	Total
Number of Children Placed In Alternatives to Adjudicate Under Division (G) of ORC Section 2151.27	494
Number of Children Who Successfully Completed Alternatives to Adjudication	340
Number of Children Who Failed to Successfully Complete Alternatives to Adjudication and were Adjudicated Unruly	339

Misdemeanor Services

The Misdemeanor Services unit consists of three staff members, two case managers, and a unit supervisor. This unit is assigned a variety of cases including all misdemeanors not currently open to another staff member. It also handles some number of truancy and failure to send referrals. Some referrals come directly from the arresting law enforcement agency, while others are cases that have failed diversion opportunities and are then re-assigned to this unit for official processing. All cases assigned to misdemeanor services have an official filing heard by a Magistrate or Judge Teodosio. Each case also involves a prosecutor and a defense attorney.

In 2024, the Misdemeanor Services unit staff were assigned 954 youth with a combined total of 1218 charges. 522 cases were closed by year end.

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 diligently 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 recommendations 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 2024.

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 2024, 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 20-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 2024, over 170 volunteer child advocates provided a voice for approximately 750 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. Here is the 2024 breakdown of activity in the CASA/GAL program:

Average years of service for CASA volunteers: 4.6 years

Number of new volunteers trained: 29

Average number of children served per CASA: 2.7

Miles: 48,064 miles

Hours: 7,497.5 hours

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 it is brought to the attention of the Court that a youth is 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 the Restore Court Magistrate 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 April 2025, 45 youth participated in BLC through Restore Court:

- 23 were docket participants, and 22 received case management only
- 40 were high-risk for trafficking and 5 were identified victims
- 22 were white, 22 were black, 1 was biracial
- Average age – 15

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
-
- 97% Identified what puts youth at risk for exploitation
 - 87% could identify the signs for sex trafficking
 - 96% knew how to identify a risky situation
 - 93% would tell a trusted adult if someone were attempting to recruit them for sex trafficking

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.

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. The program also entered into a partnership with Akron Public Schools in 2023, with participants meeting at an APS site. In 2024, three classes were held a combined 30 individuals completed the program.



Turning lives around one child at a time.



Multidisciplinary Representation Team (MRT)

James Warner, Case Coordinator

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 funding for 2024, the third 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 Reunification Recovery Court.

The MRT team consists of a case coordinator and a case manager employed by the Court, along with two parent peer support advocates with lived experience, trained and employed by Greenleaf Family Center. This team assists the assigned defense attorney selected from a pool of qualified participating attorneys (currently seven Summit County attorneys are on the list to receive MRT cases). One case manager 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 2024, 33 cases were assigned to MRT. Over 350 referrals to services were made by MRT staff, including referrals to transportation services, housing resources, employment opportunities, and referrals to health/mental health and other services (e.g. food, clothing, furniture, Job & Family Services, etc.). These resources were provided through 3,096 text conversations, 714 Phone Calls, and 453 home visits to parents, along with 472 emails and 505 calls or texts to SCCS workers or guardians. Since the beginning of the pilot in 2021, 53 children have been legally reunited with the assigned MRT parent, and 40% of the parents receiving MRT services achieved successful reunification with their children.

Court Program Earns Statewide Award

In late 2024, the Summit County Juvenile Court's Multidisciplinary Representation Team (MRT) program was the recipient of the Innovative Court Programs and Practices Award at the Ohio Judicial Conference Meeting in Columbus.

The award, sponsored by the Ohio Bar's Judicial Administration and Innovation Committee, seeks to highlight and bring greater visibility to exemplary programs in Ohio's courts and to facilitate the transfer of those programs to other jurisdictions. Award submissions were evaluated on criteria including creativity, the newness of the program, its effectiveness, and whether the program addresses significant issues that are regional in scope.



MRT Program Coordinator James Warner, Jr. holds the plaque presented to the Court's MRT Program by the Ohio Bar Association's Judicial Administration and Innovation Committee last year.

The Court's Multidisciplinary Representation Team provides support and wrap-around services to parents who have lost custody of their children with the ultimate goal of safe and timely family reunification or permanency.

Under Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio's leadership, the MRT staff have achieved a 58% success rate among those who have gone through the program. That represents 28 children returned to their homes and 14 additional children in kinship care, meaning they remained with family and were not placed in long-term foster care.

"Not only does Judge Teodosio's team approach mean better outcomes for families and children, but it also saves taxpayers in the long run with fewer kids going into the foster care system," Ohio Bar Association President Dan Griffith said. "This program is also innovative in the way it inspires an important cultural shift, moving away from the perceived adversarial nature of custody cases into that of a supportive team atmosphere. That helps increase confidence in our courts overall."

When called forward to accept the award, Judge Teodosio was accompanied to the podium by staff members Joseph Baglieri, Dawn Greathouse, and Woody Tyrrell.

"These people with me are the ones, along with James Warner, who really put this program in motion," she said. "I must also recognize the parent advocates that are so pivotal to the success of the program. The Ohio Supreme Court has also been vital to the creation of the MRT program with its support and guidance."

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 2024, 16 parents graduated from the program and 14 participants remain in the program as carryovers from 2023. 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 112 participants and 52 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.

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. The Court then reverts to addressing the issues that separated the family and introduce programming aimed at re-unifying 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 is to provide assistance to Court-involved youth. Often, a youth will disclose 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 2024, the Court's Veteran's Resources Department worked with 40 veterans. Among the services provided were counseling and networking. The outcomes included:

- Twelve youth mentored about military as a career path
- Five youth referrals from Defense Attorneys
- Seven youth referrals from Probation Case Managers
- Sixteen veterans reunited with their children
- Two parental custody orders changed to the State of Ohio
- Zero veterans relinquished their parental rights
- Six veteran referrals from the Family Resource Center
- Five veterans connected with housing services
- The remaining veterans are still receiving services. Connected veterans with services with the Veterans Affairs, Summit, Stark, and Medina, Portage, Greene, Franklin, 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, Marine Corp League, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US, Community Legal Aid (grant paid by the Veterans Affairs) Disabled American Veterans Programs, amongst others
- Worked with military parents from California, Missouri. Pennsylvania, and Texas

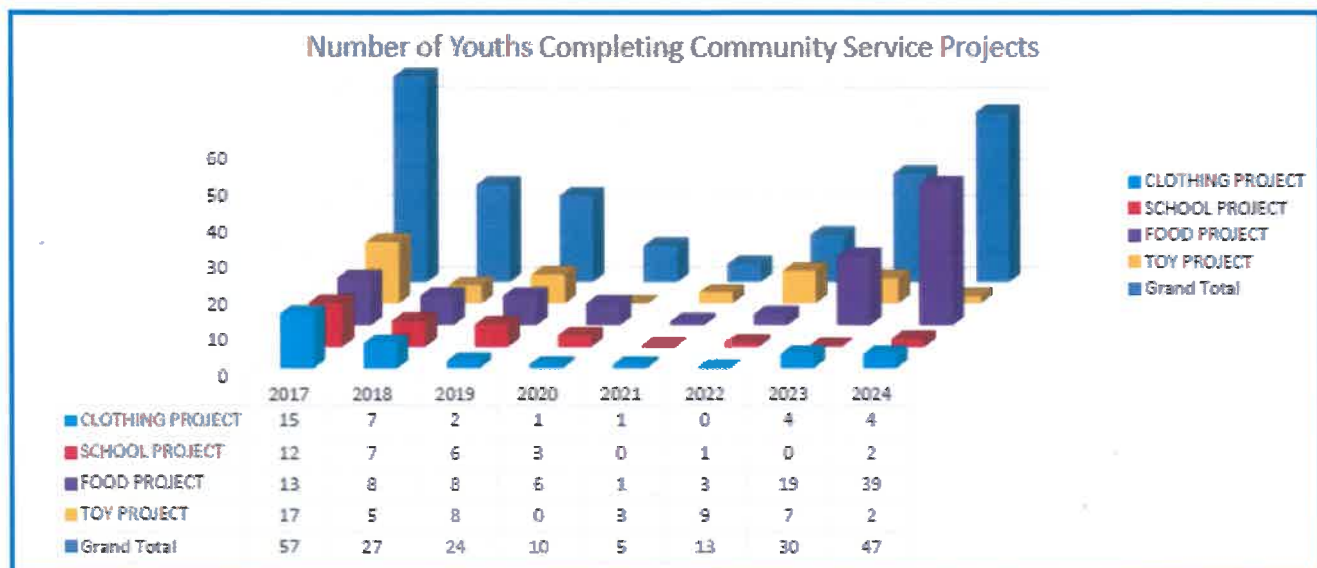
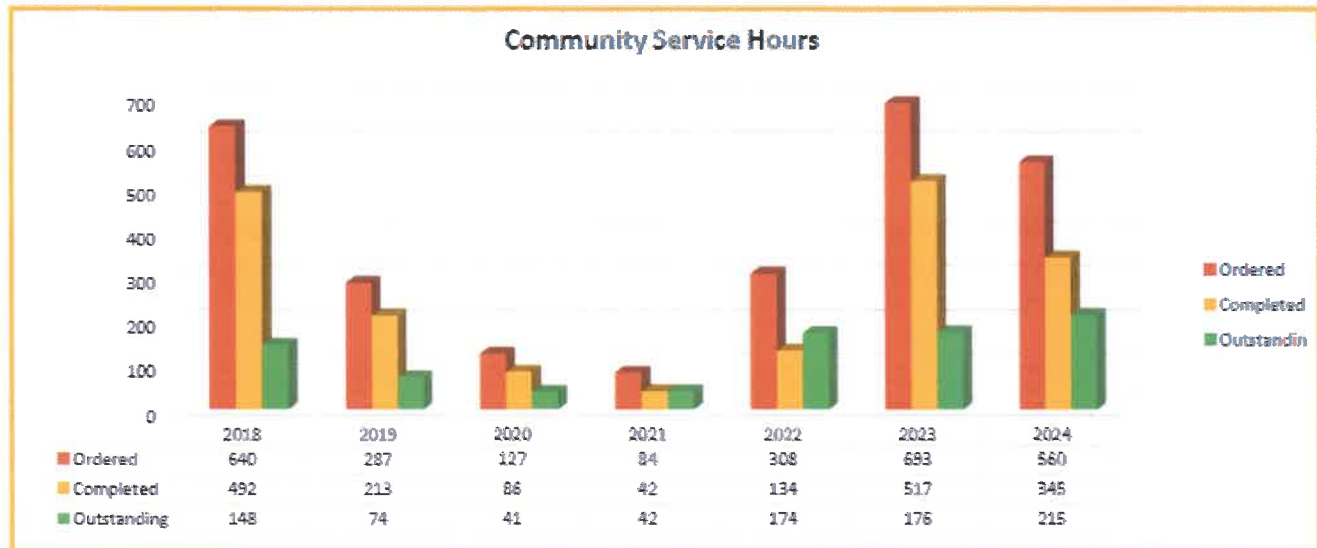
Child Responsibility Project/Community Service

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 supervise 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 track the amount of hours each youth works in the program. In 2024, 50 youth were referred to the CRP and their work totaled \$24,294.16 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 toys, food, or school supplies that will be donated to the needy in Summit County. In 2024, 47 youth participated in the Special Projects program with donations totaling \$1,560 for food items, \$160 for clothing, \$80 for school supplies, and \$80 for toys for a total of \$1,880.



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 appropriate assistance, and that Children Services is working to expedite the child's permanency plan, which is typically adoption or legal custody.

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 2024, the Citizen's Review Board reviewed the cases of 156 children in permanent custody and conducted 327 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.

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.

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 volunteer, and the Board, in 2024, numbered 24 active members.

The members of the Women's Board continued their incredible dedication to the Court, logging 4,167 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.



Turning lives around one child at a time.



Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court *

Bruce Alexander	Chanin Faith	Madison McKeever	Linda Tucci Teodosio
David Arman	Holly Farah	Alice Malik	Adam Testa
Hannah Ashton	Chris Fergus	Tillman Manuel III	Sarah Testa
Dorothy Askew	Tremain Fields	Dawne Marlowe	Woody Tyrrell
Vanessa Askew	David Fish	Allison Marquis	
Geoffrey Auerbach	Michael Fleming	Nathaniel Martin	Don Ursetti
	Kevin Floyd	Brittany Mason	Emilee Valencia
Nicole Bachman	Nathaniel Floyd	Stacey Mathieu	Katy VanHorn
Joseph Baglieri	Dylan Fouse	Kathleen Maxwell	
Lee Banks	Charlene Freeman	Brandon May	Angela Walls-Alexander
Kenzie Barclay	Francine Freeman	Tonya May	James Warner
Tammy Barnes	Thomas Freeman	Paul Mays	Jordynn Watkins
Ashley Bekina	Alan Futo	Daniel Meeks	Katie Williams
Pamela Bennett		Mary Ann Mendlik	Kelly Williams
Charity Bibbee	Susan Gatts	Kandy Monroe	Nathaniel Williams
Bob Bickett	Errick Gerback	Ciara Morris	Timothy Williams
Diana Black	Melissa Gerney	Leslie Morris	Tracy Williams
Jaime Blair	Callie Gerzanics	Lynda Mullins	Jeremy Wilson
Christina Bollman	Kevin Gladney	Adam Murphy	Eddie Winstead
Tiffany Bollman	Brianna Gleghorn	Lora Mycoskie	Christopher Wolfe
Jennifer Bond	Katherine Good		
Jon Booher	Dawn Greathouse	Juanantonio Nieves	Joan Zito
Ann-Louise Booth	Don Guthrie		
Christopher Bradford		Jimmy Oliver	
Debra Briggs	Tandaleyo Hall	Jacob O'Malley	
Tyler Britton	Antonio Hammonds		
Welby Broadus	Deontre Harrison	Terrie Pfeil	
Gervaise Burks	Nethaniel Harrison	Zachary Pfeil	
Justin Burton	Angela Hart	Lori Phillips	
	Theressa Hartley	Jacob Phliegerr	
Brenda Calderhead	Sarah Harvan	Andrew Poda	
Kate Calla	Gabrielle Hawk	Bailey Pollitt	
Beth Cardina	Shearonte Hayes	Tiffany Poole	
Samuel Chambers	Emanuel Henderson	Jeff Pope	
Anthaun Cheatom	Katie Herman		
Rollin Clayton	Whitney Hickman	Isabella Rambler	
Daniel Cody	Gregory Higgins	Milton Rankins	
Ebony Coleman	LaTonya Hill	Rotisha Ratchford	
Andrew Cox	Kandy Hixson	Megan Raymond	
Joseph Cregan	Karen Holmes	Andrew Renner	
Amber Crowe	Erica Hopkins	Rhonda Riddle	
Dianne Curtis	David Horner	Rita Rochford	
	Chad Horstman	Lisa Ross	
Jessie Dancy	Curtis Howard	Lisa Rotondo	
Amy Datsko	Katherine Hullum	Sally Roupe	
Danielle Davis	Nicole Huntsman		
Jesse Davis		Constance Sales	
William Davis	Lakeia Id Deen	Lee Ann Schaffer	
Stephanie DeLeo		Danielle Schantz	
Bradley Dickey	Lisa Johnson	Todd Schauffler	
Tyler Devenport		Christina Serrano	
Lisa DiSabato-Moore	Lisa Karas	Troy Settles	
Amanda Dodson	Christine Kasper	Brandon Short	
Kory Dunaway	Rachel Kassinger	Tiffany Sieg	
Anthony Duncan	Joe Kernan	Renee Sipe	
Kristen Duvall	Getta Kutuchief	Annie Skapin	
		Triston Smead	
Lisa Eagle	Kandice Lacy	April Smith	
Tiffany Echols	Jennifer Lewis	Thomas Smith	
Tear Ellington	Mary Lorenzo	Tierra Smith	
Natasha Ervin	Laura Lynd-Robinson	Timothy Smith	
Cheryl Evans		Nay Soe	
Cara Wolfgram Evans	Robert McCarty	Erika Sommerville	
Tye Evans	Doug McDougal	Tammy Stiles	

* list includes part-time employees, interns, and employees who worked a portion of 2024 at the Court.