

2025 Annual Report

William P. Kannel
Juvenile Court Center

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





Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge

Summit County Juvenile Court Leadership

Robert Bickett, Court Administrator

David Horner, Assistant Court Administrator

Woody Tyrrell, Assistant Court Administrator

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Special Projects Administrator

Kevin Floyd, Operations Administrator

Melissa Gerney, Detention Superintendent

Magistrates

Kate Calla, Daniel Cody, Dianne Curtis, David Fish, Thomas Freeman, Laura Lynd-Robinson, Robert McCarty, Douglas McDougal, Mary Ann Mendlik, Milton Rankins, Rita Rochford, Lee Ann Schaffer, Danielle Schantz, 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.”

A Message from Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

This annual report contains the activities and achievements of the Summit County Juvenile Court for 2025. As this report is shared, I note that it is the report for my twenty-third year as judge of the Summit County Juvenile Court and 2026 will be my last year serving in that capacity. I wanted to take this opportunity to share my reflections on my tenure on the Summit County Juvenile Court bench.

Over the last 23 years, the Summit County Juvenile Court has become a Court that seeks to do what is best for children and families in the community. I credit this transition to the amazing staff at the Court that comes to work each day determined to do whatever they can to make the lives of child and families of our community better. Whether it's by leading programs for youth that assist with rehabilitation, helping youth achieve the goal of high school completion, finding and supporting employment for youth, introducing youth to mentors and pro-social activities that assist with rehabilitation or by building a relationship with youth, the members of the staff that work with children who have adjudicated delinquent have supported the rehabilitation of these youth. Staff members support families by speaking out for the best interests of children involved in child welfare, encouraging sobriety and mental health treatment for parents, educating parents on appropriate discipline and by linking families with resources that exist in our community. The staff truly give it their all!

We have been so fortunate to have so many community partners that have helped us to make so many advancements over the decades that I am reluctant to point out a few for fear of leaving someone out but I must acknowledge the support of the Women's Board to the Summit County Juvenile Court who do so much to help the youth in detention and the CASA Board who supports the volunteers in Guardian Ad Litem program. The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, The Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board, the County Executive and the Children and Family Forst Council have been amazing partners in our quest to improve the lives of children and families.

So, what are some of the accomplishments that this amazing team has accomplished with the assistance of our partners:

1. A Family Resource Center was created to assist families in connecting with services and to provide diversion active ties for children charges with low level offenses.
2. Crossroads was certified by the Ohio Supreme Court as a specialized docket for youth that suffer from mental health, substance use or co-occurring disorders.
3. Restore Court was certified by the Ohio Supreme Court as a specialized docket for youth that are victims of or are at risk to become victims of human trafficking.
4. The Family Reunification through Recovery Court was certified as a specialized docket to assist parents who have lost custody of their children because of a substance use disorder.
5. A therapy room was created in the Juvenile Detention Center to meet the behavioral health needs of youth that are held in that facility. The therapists provide counseling and support and lead groups for confined youth. There are also many items available to youth to assist them with the stress and trauma of being confined. The therapy room and its services and contents are possible through a partnership with the ADM and DD Boards.
6. In addition to the services provided in the detention therapy room, a child psychiatrist is available to assess youth for medical management, and a youth can begin his or her medication regimen while in detention thanks to the partnership of the ADM Board and Akron Children's Hospital.
7. The Summit County Juvenile Detention Center has been accredited and achieved re-accreditation by American Correctional Association (ACA) for the first time in its history.
8. Activities available to youth in detention assist with rehabilitation. These include a greenhouse and garden (thanks to the Women's Board); ping pong, karaoke and chess (thanks to Simon Badinter); peace circles and spiritual guidance (thanks to Pastor Herman Matherson Jr. of House of the Lord); enhanced educational opportunities (thanks to Akron Public Schools); book clubs, speech contests, art activities, poetry contests, drama classes, mentorship and programs (thanks to Court staff and many community organizations).

A Message from Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, con't.

9. The Parent Project is available to assist parents of youngsters who are struggling.
10. A partnership with Child Guidance and Family Solutions and the Village Network have allowed the Court to provide community-based services for youth in need of behavioral health services. In addition to these services, youth can participate in tutoring to assist them with their education and be assigned a mentor. This project is funded through a Behavioral Health-Juvenile Justice grant.
11. Programs for youth on probation to assist with their rehabilitation include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Groups and a Violence Intervention Program led by Court staff.
12. Youth can participate in a safe driving program which can allow low-level traffic offenses to be diverted.
13. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Guardian ad Litem has been increased to include social workers who can make recommendations as to the best interests of the child in child welfare cases thanks to the support of the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.
14. A case management system has been established that allows attorneys to access information regarding their client's cases and e-file documents for prompt processing and attention.
15. The Court piloted Multidisciplinary Representation for parents who are involved with the child welfare system. A multidisciplinary team consisting of a case manager and parent advocate (thanks to Greenleaf Family Center) work as a team with the assigned attorney to represent parents involved in the Court.
16. The Court utilizes an evidence-based risk assessment instrument to assess the risk of recidivism and to make decisions as to whether a youth should be held in detention. The Court also uses evidence-based instruments to assess risk for human trafficking or suicide.
17. Youth complete a mental health assessment upon admission to the detention center and in advance of disposition in their cases to make sure that Court orders meet their mental health needs.
18. New Paths assists children that may have developmental delays or who are on the autism spectrum to navigate the court system and connect them with needed services in the community.
19. Youth are assessed for release from detention and can be placed on GPS monitored house arrest with case management through the Oriana House if their release is deemed to be safe for the community.
20. A robust re-entry program has been instituted to assist youth who have been committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services or a State of Ohio Community Correctional Facility. This includes the assignment of a Re-entry Case Coordinator who maintains contact with the child and family throughout the term of commitment and assists with the planning for needed services upon the child's return to the community. This program includes frequent progress reviews with the Court both during the term of commitment and upon return to the community.
21. Youth charged with domestic violence are referred to a Magistrate with expertise in dealing with these issues and are assigned a specialized case manager to assist the child in family in accessing services and achieving a healthy home environment.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Judge of the Summit County Juvenile Court. I am grateful for all that have given of their time and talent to help make our community a better place.

Linda Tucci Teodosio

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator

The 2025 Summit County Juvenile Court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled \$18,696,344

General Office/Judicial	\$3,129,281	RECLAIM Ohio	\$5,613,321*	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$15,002,555
Probation/Administration	2,428,745	Title IV-E	565,377	Contract Service	2,633,505
Detention Center	<u>4,303,142</u>	TitleXX/TANF Job Re-entry	117,802	Other	<u>1,060,284</u>
Total County Funding	\$9,861,168	Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice	348,402		
		Victims of Crime	86,842		
		Victims of Human Trafficking	185,000		
		National School Lunch Program	50,087		
		Title XX Guardian ad Litem	583,000		
		TANF XX Family Resource Center	728,000		
		State Victims Assistance	3,286		
		Supreme Court MRT	75,000		
		CASA Volunteer Board	70,013		
		Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy	135,000		
		Summit Co. ADM Detention MH Services	245,346		
		Ohio Attorney General Electronic Reporting	28,700		
		Total State/Federal Grant Funding	\$8,835,176		

* Includes \$1,264,390.43 of carryover grant funds

**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 Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family And Children First Council/Summit County Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement	137,750.00 131,084.00
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

2025 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. This has resulted in a decrease in bed-days which is becoming a positive trend. Our bed-day usage decreased by 546 bed-days (a decrease of 10% from Fiscal Year 2024.) The Court yielded \$2,860,044.22 or an 9% share of available variable RECLAIM funds. The Court also received allocations of \$705,857 from the Youth Services Grant, \$351,896 for Targeted RECLAIM, \$75,000 for Competitive RECLAIM, \$306,133.35 for BHJJ, and \$50,000 for Year-End Evidence-Based Program Development. All totaled, in Fiscal Year 2025, the Court received \$4,348,930.57 from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Additional 2025 Funding

Prepared by Assistant Court 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 2025, totaled \$2,370,060. 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 2025 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 554 youth and caregivers in 2025. ***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, \$413,932: 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 and 10 or more adult caregivers 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.***

Specialized Docket funds were received in 2025 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 **\$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 **\$120,000** for year five 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

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 2025 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 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 is accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The facility adheres to standards set forth by ACA and has received high scores and achieved reaccreditation since the process was initiated in 2015.

Juveniles are encouraged to participate in visitation with their parents and/or guardians. Visits are conducted in-person and virtually to allow convenience for those who may not have transportation to and from the facility. Telephone calls are offered at least two times each week.

Education remains an important facet of the Detention Center's operations. Akron Public Schools provides all educational programming, providing daily instruction that includes Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. On an annual basis, youth have the opportunity to participate in a speech competition and present to members of the community.

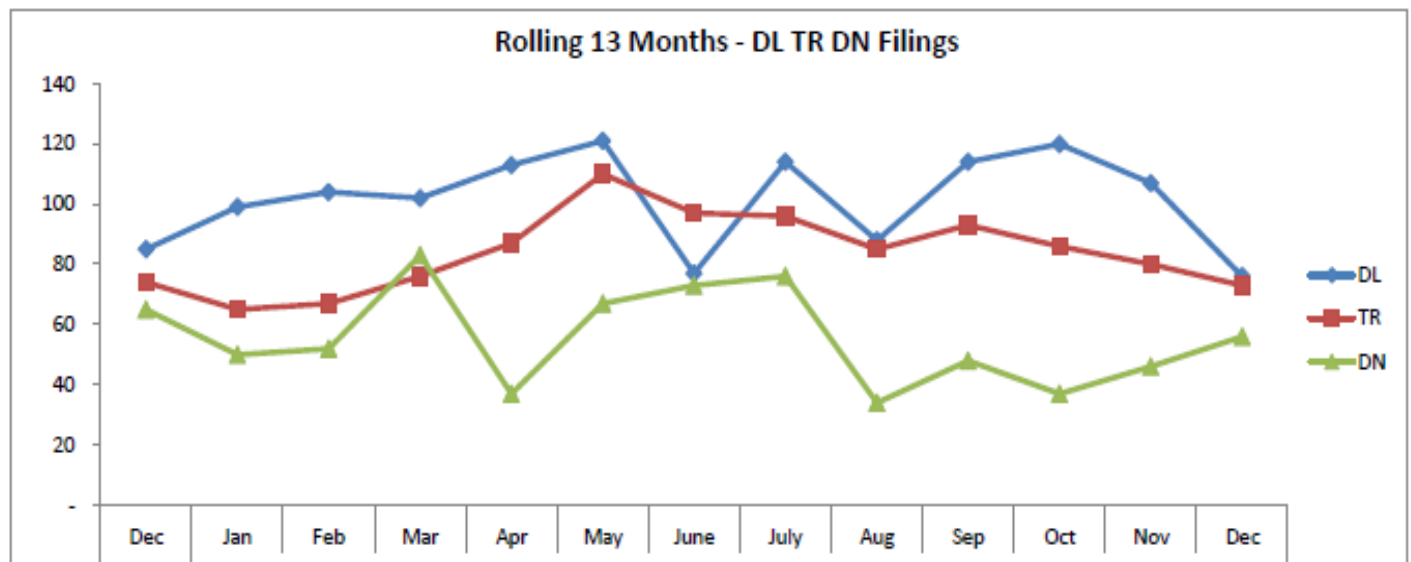
An initiative with community partners has afforded the Detention Center an opportunity to work with Credible Messengers. Members of this group meet with juveniles on a weekly basis, providing mentorship and offering guidance toward positive life path. Juveniles released from the Detention Center have the ability to engage with these mentors while in the community.

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 reward parties and holiday parties. The Detention Center has a garden and green house where youth plant and grow a variety of fruits and vegetables. The flowers grown in the garden are transplanted in beds located on the grounds of the Juvenile Court Center. The vegetables are harvested and placed in the salad bar in the Detention Center cafeteria. 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.

By the Numbers—Case Filings in 2025 by Offense

	2024	2025												2025 Totals	2025 % of Total
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
DL	85	99	104	102	113	121	77	114	88	114	120	107	76	1,235	25.75%
TR	74	65	67	76	87	110	97	96	85	93	86	80	73	1,015	21.16%
DN	65	50	52	83	37	67	73	76	34	48	37	46	56	659	13.74%
FS	48	49	43	60	65	65	50	56	9	10	33	31	20	491	10.24%
UN	45	50	45	54	64	70	31	50	12	21	36	26	19	478	9.97%
RF	35	46	21	31	22	48	20	45	19	35	36	27	24	374	7.80%
RT	62	45	31	125	86	44	3	-	-	3	19	23	26	405	8.44%
GP	2	10	1	4	4	7	4	10	33	8	6	5	2	94	1.96%
PS	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.04%
CT	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	8	0.17%
PO	2	2	-	1	4	-	2	3	1	2	2	4	1	22	0.46%
TM	-	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	-	1	3	2	-	13	0.27%
Total	418	416	366	536	483	535	364	451	281	335	379	351	299	4,796	100.00%



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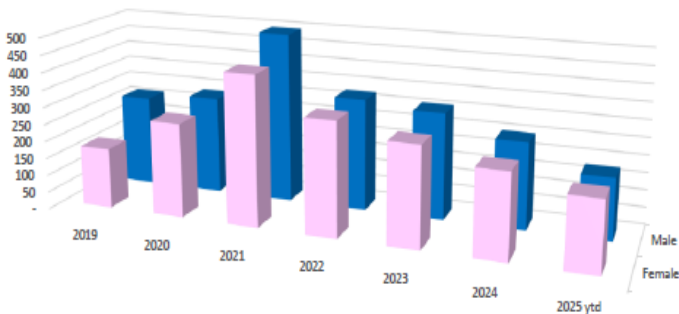
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|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| DL Delinquency | CT Contributing(Adult) | DN Dependency/Neglect/Abuse | LC Legal Custody |
| TR Traffic | PS Permanent Surrender | PO Protection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

2025 By the Numbers—Delinquency, Unruly, Misdemeanor, and Truancy Charges

Top DL and UN Charges Comparison		2024		2025		YTD % +/- Previous year
		Dec	YTD	Dec	YTD	
FELONY						
F2	PANDERING OBSCENITY INVOLVING A MINOR	-	8	8	11	38%
F4	ASSAULT	1	19	2	24	26%
F5	VANDALISM	1	8	4	11	38%
F5	THEFT	-	20	4	13	-35%
F4	CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS	4	66	3	55	-17%
MISDEMEANOR						
M1	ASSAULT	8	176	13	177	1%
M1	THEFT	8	152	13	160	5%
M1	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	11	142	12	182	28%
M4	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	12	121	9	151	25%
M4	CRIMINAL TRESPASS	-	62	5	75	21%
M2	CRIMINAL DAMAGING OR ENDANGERING	4	63	5	149	137%
M2	RESISTING ARREST	1	26	4	27	4%
M2	OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	15	158	4	139	-12%
STATUS						
ST	UNRULY CHILD DEFINED	50	494	21	531	7%
ST	PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO CIGARETTES OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS	-	15	1	19	27%

TOP RF AND RT		2024		2025		YTD % +/- Previous year
		Dec	YTD	Dec	YTD	
FELONY						
F4	ASSAULT			2	2	#DIV/0!
MISDEMEANOR						
M1	THEFT	11	85	4	75	-12%
M4	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	3	63	7	72	14%
MM	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	2	38	2	25	-34%
MM	POSSESSION OF DRUGS	1	18	3	20	11%
STATUS						
ST	UNRULY CHILD DEFINED	78	645	30	492	-24%
ST	PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO CIGARETTES OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS	-	9	1	9	0%

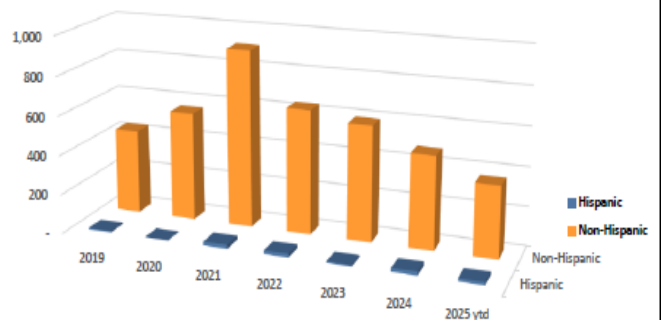
RT (Truancy) Case Initiations by Gender



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 ytd
Female	174	272	432	328	288	244	201
Male	265	285	495	325	308	250	178

■ Female ■ Male

Total RT (Truancy) Case Initiations by Ethnicity



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 ytd
Hispanic	7	1	20	18	7	20	15
Non-Hispanic	432	556	907	635	589	474	364

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 work 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 2025, the Clerk's Office collected a total of \$154,471.55. The following is a breakdown of those monies:

Computer & Legal Research, Application, County, Clerk, & Special Fees, Victims of Crime:
\$60,695.02

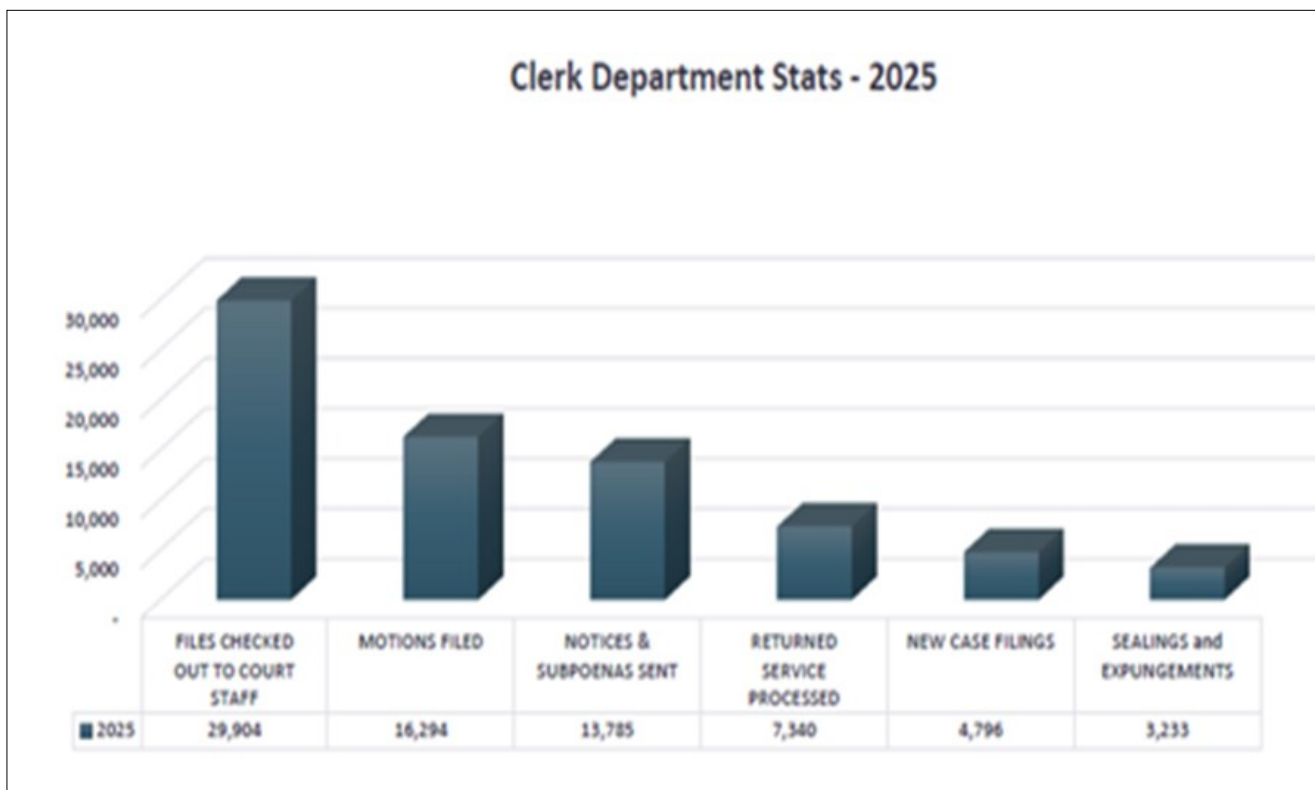
Traffic Fines & Costs, Indigent Drivers, Treatment, Defense, and Legal Aid Funds: \$52,393.15

Restitution: \$30,895.88

Virtual Driver Assessment Fees: \$5,897.50

Staying Accident Free Through Education (SAFTE) Driver Intervention Program: \$4,375.00

Payment of Fines and Costs in Adult, Delinquency, and Unruly Cases: \$215.00



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 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, Carey Guides, and Rewire CBT to effectively support behavior change and promote positive outcomes for youth. Evidence-based practices are specifically designed to help young people learn and practice the skills they need to heal from trauma and make healthier decisions.

In 2025, The Probation Department added the support of Credible Messengers. The addition of Credible Messengers to our juvenile probation cases provides youth with trusted support grounded in lived experience. These relationships improve engagement, promote accountability, and help youth navigate challenges while reinforcing pro-social choices. This support complements probation supervision and promotes lasting positive change.

In 2025, Traditional Probation had 116 new admissions and 101 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 2025, 10 youth were placed on Offender Specific Probation, and 17 youth successfully completed the program.

Crossroads Probation: This program has been certified by the Ohio Supreme Court as a specialized docket. Crossroads is an intensive probation program for juvenile offenders with a mental health diagnosis; a substance use disorder or both (dual diagnosis). Youth and family members appear regularly for Court review hearings to allow the youth to summarize their progress with Court orders and probation requirements. Crossroads Case Managers work to connect participants to community resources including counseling, mentoring, and education services. 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 2025, the program had 12 new admissions and 8 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(c)*

Probation Department Staff Worker Recognized

Probation Case Worker Pamela Bennett has been named Region 2 Social Worker of the Year by the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Ms. Bennett was acknowledged for her work at a banquet in Columbus.



Pamela Bennett

Each year, the NASW Ohio Chapter recognizes exceptional social workers, students, and agencies whose work in service to their communities reflects the values of the social work profession. Regional winners have been selected from the nominees for each of the NASW Ohio Chapter's 8 regions by the NASW Ohio Board of Directors. Region 2 covers Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit counties

Ms. Bennett came to the Summit County Juvenile Court in 2013 as a member of the CASA/GAL staff. She worked in that capacity until moving to the Probation Department in June of 2021. She is a Licensed Social Worker who works with youth who have either completed their disposition and placed on probation or were immediately placed on probation as part of their disposition. Her ultimate objective is to communicate with the youth on her caseload to direct them to embrace a positive lifestyle and not become Court-involved again. It can be a balancing act at times to employ empathy or intensive supervision, but Ms. Bennett has succeeded.

She was nominated for the award by a former Juvenile Court colleague Jasmyne Wilson, with whom she worked in the CASA/GAL office. Noting that, Ms. Wilson felt that Pamela had made a seamless transition to the Probation Department and the youth on her caseload.

"Ms. Bennett continues to advocate for what is in the best interest of the juveniles she serves," she said. "Ms. Bennett has gained the ability to collaborate with many community partners to make sure the needs of those she serves are being met."

Her current supervisor, Probation Administrator Jennifer Bond, echoed that sentiment.

"Pam approaches each workday with passion and purpose," stated Ms. Bond. "She's reliable and accountable and the youth on her caseload seem to respond to her message. She deserves this recognition."

The NASW had this to say about Ms. Bennett: "Pamela has worked to restore hope and opportunity, building trust through advocacy, mentorship, and genuine connection. She embodies the essence of social work, meeting people where they are, believing in second chances, and inspiring others through her unwavering commitment to growth and service."

For Ms. Bennett, the award serves only to motivate her more.

"I am honored and humbled for this recognition," she said. "But, it just means I need to keep doing what I'm doing for the kids I work with and to try to do it even better."



Pamela Bennett stands with Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio following her recognition as Region 2 Social Worker of the Year at a banquet in Columbus

Special Projects and Reform Initiatives

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Special Projects and Reform Administrator

The Special Projects Department achieved another productive year of growth in 2025. The department is a compilation of members of the Court who provide a wide range of services and opportunities to youth and families, a result of Judge Teodosio's commitment to fill service gaps by providing opportunities to families not otherwise available to them.

Andrew Cox, the Court's Veteran Service Case Manager, works with veterans who are involved in court proceedings involving dependency and/or neglect matters, such as custody issues, as well as with youth who intend to join a branch of the military by providing guidance on steps necessary to be able to serve. In 2025, Andrew served 23 veterans, successfully closing their cases by supporting reunification with their children. He mentored 13 youth who expressed an interest in pursuing military service; one of whom is currently serving in the United States Marine Corps. In addition, when called upon, Andrew provides education to young people relating to trauma, including how to process traumatic experiences by developing effective coping strategies.

Kandy Hixson serves the community as the Court's Case Expeditor. Kandy provides case management services to children who have been brought to the Court's attention on a delinquency matter and have been deemed appropriate for a community supervision level of care while their case proceeds through the Court. In calendar year 2025, 45 youth were ordered in the Detention Admission Release Program (DARP). Of those youth, 86% were brought to the Court's attention for events involving a firearm. Forty-two of the youth were male, three were female, five were white, one multi race and 39 youth were black. The overall success rate was 85% for the year.

Kathy Hillum, Reentry and Programming Coordinator, began intensive 12-week programming for youth who are Court-ordered to receive violence intervention programming. Kathy facilitated three, 12-week groups, and successfully graduated 24 youth, a success rate of 86%. Additionally, she continued her work of developing community partnerships aimed at advancing programming for Court involved youth, including facilitating a book club for the young men in the Detention Center to promote reading comprehension and critical thinking. The Court also partnered with the LeBron James Boys and Girls Club to co-facilitate weekly programming for teen girls focused on health, fitness, prevention/education, and self-esteem enhancement.

Lisa Johnson, Academic Services Coordinator, continued her efforts to bridge identified gaps regarding education connections for kids and families in the community.

Terrie Pfeil, Data and Research Analyst, has 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. The Court's monthly data report has been used as a statewide example of how data sharing supports the Court's mission. In addition, Terrie visits the Detention Center on a weekly basis to teach the skill of crochet which has found to be a popular and calming activity among the young ladies.

Also in 2025, the Court assumed responsibility for oversight and administration of the Child and Family Leadership Exchange (CFLE) program, which is a professional development opportunity for emerging leaders who work in the Summit County child welfare system. The program works in collaboration with multiple social service agencies to equip child welfare high-potential professionals with knowledge, skills and networks to allow them to better serve and improve outcomes for families and children in our community. A CFLE steering committee was formed, consisting of court staff members Stephanie DeLeo, Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Tremain Fields, Kathy Hillum, Lisa Johnson, Rachel Kassinger, Getta Kutuchief, Sarah Testa, Todd Schaufli, and Don Ursetti, and Beth Gracey from the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation created a movement to examine policies and practices in juvenile detention in 1992. The movement was called Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). In 2010, the Summit County Juvenile Court was asked to join four other counties and the Ohio Department of Youth Services to become model counties participating in JDAI. This initiative affords the community the opportunity to make recommendations to the Court on such issues as the appropriate use of Detention, alternatives to Detention that will promote community safety, and review the conditions of confinement at the Dan Street facility.

Reform efforts at Summit County Juvenile Court have led to substantial reductions in system involvement. Overall, the Court's reform strategies have significantly improved outcomes by reducing deeper system penetration while maintaining accountability and enhancing opportunities for youth rehabilitation.

The chart below represents 16 years of successful juvenile justice reform in Summit County with 2009 serving as a baseline year leading up to the 2010 implementation of JDAI at the Court. The left column reflects data prior to beginning the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative's system work, and the right side reflects the Court's outcome measures for 2025.

<h1>No Negative Impact on Public Safety</h1>	
2009	2025
Case Filings <small>(Delinquency only/Calendar year)</small> 4,319	Case Filings <small>(Delinquency only/Calendar year)</small> 1,235 ↓ 71%
Youth Adjudicated Of a Felony <small>(Fiscal year)</small> 563	Youth Adjudicated of a Felony <small>(Fiscal year)</small> 150 ↓ 73%
Detention Admissions <small>(Calendar year)</small> 1,565	Detention Admissions <small>(Calendar year)</small> 323 ↓ 79%
New to Probation <small>(Calendar year)</small> 552	New to Probation <small>(Calendar year)</small> 125 ↓ 77%
Commit to ODYS <small>(Fiscal Year)</small> 80	Commit to ODYS <small>(Fiscal year)</small> 12 ↓ 85% 8 new commitments/1 revocations
Bind Over to Adult <small>(Fiscal year)</small> 16	Bind Over To Adult <small>(Fiscal year)</small> 1 ↓ 94% 1 Discretionary

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 2025, the Family Resource Center provided services to:

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

151 out of 206 (73%) 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	405
Number of Children Who Successfully Completed Alternatives to Adjudication	551
Number of Children Who Failed to Successfully Complete Alternatives to Adjudication and were Adjudicated Unruly	281

Misdemeanor Services

The Misdemeanor Services unit consists of four staff members, three case managers, and a unit supervisor. A new case manager was added to the unit this year. This case manager position was added to provide a more offense specific approach to domestic violence referrals. In addition to the case manager, a group component was added. The group is facilitated by the case manager and a detention mental health clinician. Youth undergo an evaluation by our clinical staff to be deemed appropriate for the group. If not seen as a good candidate for group, the case is treated in a more traditional manner. One magistrate handles this population and schedules reviews to be aware of progress being made.

This unit is assigned to 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 reassigned 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.

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 ensure 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 2025.

The CASA/GAL Program also benefits from donations from the Kimberly S. Denholm Charities, as well as other community grants to underwrite the program's annual Holiday Toy Shop, which purchases gifts that are selected and delivered to the children by their CASA volunteer. In 2025, 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 2025, 140 volunteer child advocates and staff provided a voice for over 600 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 2025 breakdown of activity in the CASA/GAL program:

Average years of service for CASA volunteers: 5.1 years

Number of new volunteers trained: 22

Average number of children served per CASA: 2.4

Miles: 39,510

Hours: 7,321

Total number of children served by the CASA Program: 637



CASA/GAL Program Director Wins Award

Beth Cardina, the Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program at the Summit County Juvenile Court, was the recipient of the Trailblazer Award from Akron Children's Hospital. Ms. Cardina joined other honorees as inaugural winners of the hospital's More Childhood, Please Awards that were presented at a banquet in October 2025.

The More Childhood, Please Awards strive to honor individuals whose efforts help children grow up and reach their full potential.

That description perfectly encapsulates Ms. Cardina's mission throughout her career in social services. She worked at Summit County Children Services before accepting her current position at the Court in 2004.

The CASA/GAL program is devoted to advocating for children who are Court-involved through no fault of their own. CASA volunteers, with assistance from Volunteers Coordinators and program administrators, examine every facet of the child's life and, through collaboration with community partners, make decisions in the best interest of the child. The volunteer then reports to the Court on the recommendations for the child while also offering updates on the child's progress while the family issues are being navigated through the Court system.



CASA/GAL Director Beth Cardina stands with Children's Hospital CEO Christopher Gessner after receiving The Trailblazer Award.

Akron Children's Hospital noted that Ms. Cardina has devoted nearly 40 years to advocating on behalf of children unable to experience safe and happy childhoods because of abuse or neglect. Under Ms. Cardina's leadership, the CASA/GAL program has become one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind in the state. In fact, during Ms. Cardina's tenure, the program has grown to be among the largest in the nation.

Ms. Cardina's reputation for advocacy extends beyond the boundaries of Summit County.

"We congratulate Beth on this well-deserved honor," said Ohio CASA/GAL Association Executive Director Doug Stephens. "She has displayed a strong commitment to the CASA model and runs a highly effective program. Her dedication and kindness stand out."

Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio believes Ms. Cardina is most worthy of the award.

"The organizers at Children's Hospital made a wonderful choice in recognizing Beth," said Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. "Her devotion to making sure the children on the program's caseload are cared for is inspiring."

From Ms. Cardina's perspective, the award is in her name, but she considers it a broader acknowledgment.

"This award is for every volunteer and staff member who has made a positive difference in the life of a child," she said. "The award is very nice, but the true reward is seeing a child in a better position to succeed and experience a better chance for a happy, productive life."

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 August 2025, 52 youth participated in BLC through Restore Court:

- 24 were docket participants, and 28 received case management only
- 41 were high-risk for trafficking and 11 were identified victims
- 21 were white, 29 were black, 1 was biracial, 1 Asian
- Average age – 15 (range: 12-18)

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
- 95% Identified what puts youth at risk for exploitation
- 90% 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
- The successful docket rate increased after the BLC implementation from 45% to 78%.

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 (FIRC)

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 (FIRC), the FIRC 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 FIRC. If program qualifications are met, the parent will be given a case plan from the FIRC Treatment Team aimed at recovery. The Treatment Team also makes recommendations and reports progress to the FIRC 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 FIRC received its recertification 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 FIRC 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 FIRC as a specialized docket three times.

In 2025, eight parents graduated from the program and eleven participants remain in the program as carryovers from 2024. 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.

Since the program's inception, it has enrolled 132 participants and 60 have successfully completed the program.

Veteran's Services

Andrew Cox, Case Manager

Over the past year, a significant portion of the Veteran's Services caseload progressed to timely resolution, with 23 cases successfully closed in 2025. This demonstrates consistent case movement and active engagement in permanency planning. Of the cases resolved, 17 resulted in legal custody being returned to a parent, representing the most common outcome, and reflecting a sustained focus on family reunification when deemed safe and appropriate. An additional five cases were closed with legal custody awarded to another suitable party, such as relatives or individuals familiar to the family, highlighting effective utilization of kinship and alternative placement resources. Only one case resulted in permanent custody being granted to the State.

During this period, the program received referrals for 13 youth from Probation Department case managers, Family Resource Center staff, and attorneys. In each case, the youth expressed interest in pursuing military service. In 2025, approximately 20 hours of individualized mentoring was conducted in the youth's home, school, or Court setting, supporting goal development and skill-building.

In addition to direct casework, continuing education and professional development was a priority in the past year. This included attendance at the Rise Conference in Orlando, Florida, providing over 20 hours of training focused on veterans involved in the Court system, as well as participation in the Veterans Summit in Columbus, Ohio, presented by the Ohio Supreme Court. Completion of the Summit County Treatment Court Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training through Valor Court and Common Pleas Court, in coordination with the Summit County ADM Board, was also achieved. The goal of this training is to enhance the support of families and youth navigating the Court system.

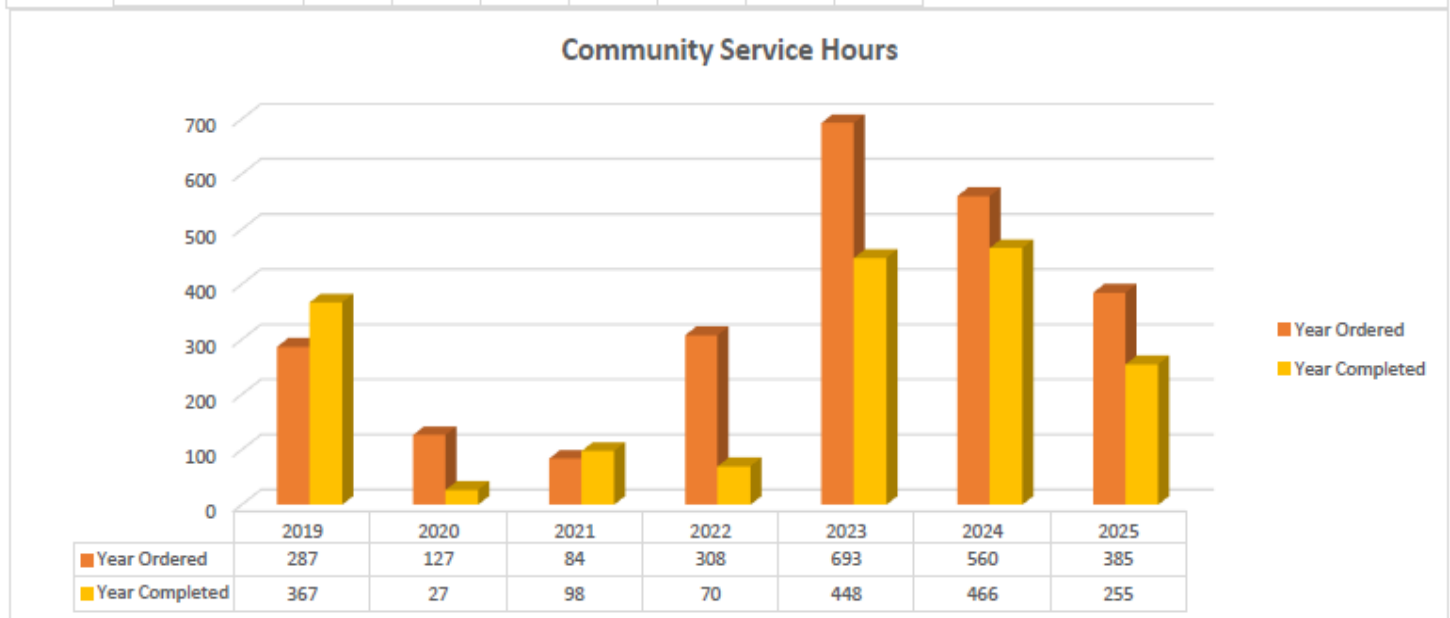
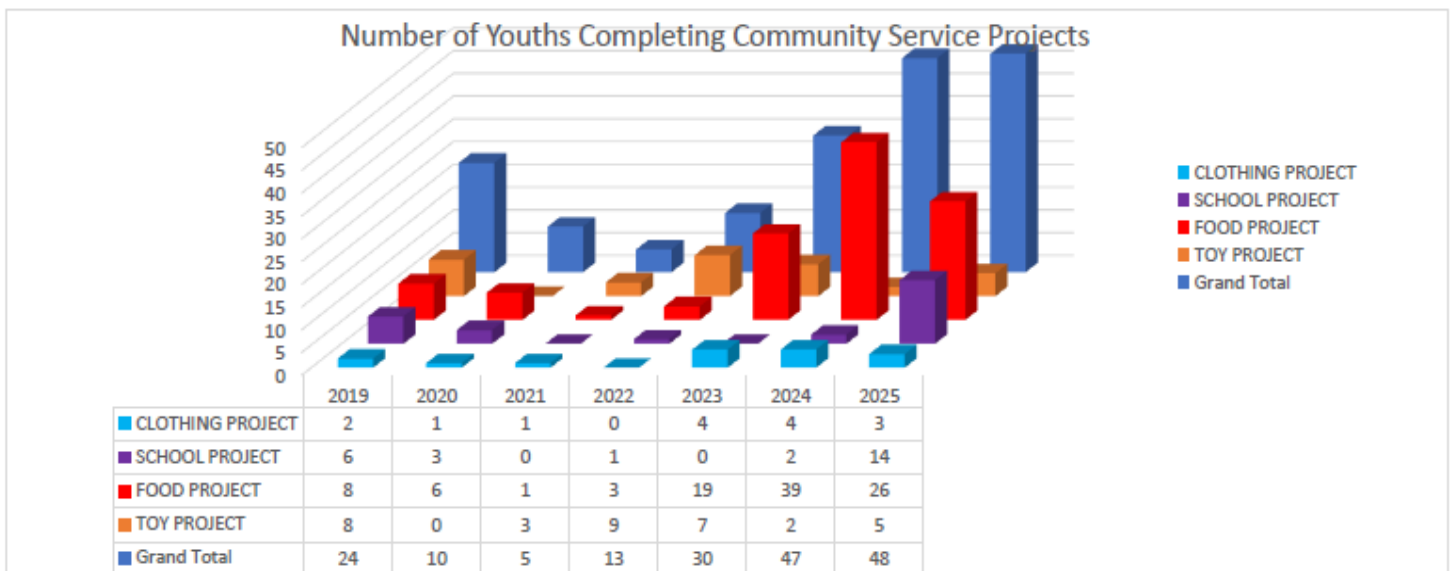
Child Responsibility Project/Community Service

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 ensure 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 number of hours each youth works in the program. In 2025, 36 youth were referred to the CRP and their work totaled \$18,606.23 of restitution to the victims. In all, the youth completed 1,861 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 2025, 36 youth participated in the Special Projects program with donations totaling \$1,040 for food items, \$120 for clothing, \$560 for school supplies, and \$200 for toys for a total of \$1,920.



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 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 2025, one session was conducted at the APS site. At the Juvenile Court in 2025, three classes were held and a combined 18 individuals completed the program. Since the inception of the program at the Summit County Juvenile Court, 247 people have graduated from The Parent Project.

Multidisciplinary Representation Team (MRT)

Dawn Greathouse, Case Coordinator

The Summit County Juvenile Court Multidisciplinary Representation Team (MRT) began serving clients in February 2021 as part of a statewide pilot project funded by the Ohio Supreme Court. Using Federal Court Improvement Project dollars, the program aims to improve legal representation for families involved in the child welfare system by assisting assigned clients outside of the courtroom to meet all of the objectives on their Summit County Children's Services (SCCS) case plan with the goal of reunifying the family quickly and thoroughly. The Court was awarded additional funding for 2025, allowing a fourth, full year of the program.

MRT receives post-petition referrals from the assigning shelter care Judge or Magistrate for the next day's hearing. Along with a pre-selected Court-appointed MRT attorney, each client is assigned a case manager employed by the Court, and a Peer Supporter (a peer with lived experience with the Court and child welfare system), employed by Greenleaf Family Center. MRT provides clients with resources, support, and encouragement as they collaborate together with other case-involved partners (e.g., CASA/GAL, SCCS case workers, SUD/MH providers) and keep clients engaged as they navigate through the system and alleviate concerns that led to Court involvement. The team regularly updates the MRT attorney on client's progress and encourages communication between client and attorney, helping to defuse any barriers that might hinder a client's success.

The MRT team aims to empower and strengthen families by providing links to services and a vast collection of community partners to meet the client's immediate needs and ultimately be able to seek out helpful resources if needed in the future. Often, MRT is the first support clients have had as they are met by MRT representatives to determine where they are at a vulnerable time in their lives. Clients benefit from referrals and assistance with essential things such as getting their first apartment, applying for a job, finding affordable clothing and household needs, connecting to local food pantries, and planning transportation.

In 2025, 29 clients were assigned to MRT, serving 58 children. Over 650 referrals to services were issued by MRT staff. These resources were provided through 2,445 text conversations, 883 phone calls, and 533 home visits, along with 206 emails and 405 calls or texts to SCCS workers or CASA/GAL's. Since the beginning of the pilot in 2021, 63 children have been legally reunified with the assigned MRT client, and 27 have remained in kinship placement with family or known caregivers, keeping children out of the foster care system, giving MRT families a 61% success rate.

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 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. Working with Magistrate Rochford, the Board has the authority to issue orders during review hearings.

In 2025, the Citizen's Review Board reviewed the cases of 129 children in permanent custody and conducted 266 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 2025, numbered 30 active members, seven affiliate members, ten sustaining members, and five lifetime members.

The members of the Women's Board continued their incredible dedication to the Court, logging 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. With the emphasis on 'kind'.



Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court *

Bruce Alexander	Holly Farah	Laura Lynd-Robinson	April Smith
David Arman	Chris Fergus		Kevin Smith
Hannah Ashton	Tremain Fields	Robert McCarty	Thomas Smith
Dorothy Askew	David Fish	Douglas McDougal	Ericka Sommerville
Vanessa Askew	Michael Fleming	Madison McKeever	Tammy Stiles
Andrea Asket	Kevin Floyd	Kevin Maldonado	Aidan Stokes
Geoffrey Auerbach	Nathaniel Floyd	Alice Malik	Donnell Stoner
	Dylan Fouse	Tillman Manuel III	
Nicole Bachman	Charlene Freeman	Dawne Marlowe	Adam Testa
Joseph Baglieri	Francine Freeman	Allison Marquis	Sarah Testa
Kenzie Barclay	Thomas Freeman	Justin Martin	Linda Tucci Teodosio
Tammy Barnes	Alan Futo	Nathaniel Martin	Woody Tyrrell
Lauren Beard		Brittany Mason	
Ashley Bekina	Susan Gatts	Stacey Mathieu	Don Ursetti
Pamela Bennett	Errick Gerback	Tonya May	
Charity Bibbee	Melissa Gerney	Daniel Meeks	Emilee Valencia
Bob Bickett	Callie Gerzanics	Mary Ann Mendlik	Katy VanHorn
Jaime Blair	Shanae Gills	Kandy Monroe	
Tiffany Bollman	Kevin Gladney	Santoni Montanez	Angela Walls-Alexander
Richard Bonath III	Brianna Gleghorn	Ciara Moore	James Warner
Jennifer Bond	Alyssa Gomula	Shantel Morgan	Jordynn Watkins
Jon Booher	Katherine Good	Leslie Morris	Jaden White
Tyler Britton	Dawn Greathouse	Brianna Motley	Katie Williams
Welby Broaddus	Laterrill Greenwood	Lynda Mullins	Kelly Williams
De'Jon Brooks	Don Guthrie	Adam Murphy	Nathaniel Williams
Gervaise Burks		Lora Mycoskie	Tracy Williams
Justin Burton	Tandaleyo Hall		Eddie Winstead
	Antonio Hammons	Juanantonio Nieves	Ruth Wisniewski
Aiden Calderhead	Nethaniel Harris		
Brenda Calderhead	Angela Hart	Jimmy Oliver	Erin Zito
Kate Calla	Theressa Hartley		Joan Zito
Beth Cardina	Sarah Harvan	Terrie Pfeil	
Leandrea Cash	Shearonte Hayes	Zachary Pfeil	
Daniel Cody	Katie Herman	Lori Phillips	
Ebony Coleman	Whitney Hickman	Jacob Phlieger	
Marielys Colon Morales	Gregory Higgins	Dezmona Pierce	
Andrew Cox	LaTonya Hill	Andrew Poda	
Joseph Cregan	Kandy Hixson	Bailey Pollitt	
Amber Crowe	Karen Holmes	Tiffany Poole	
Dianne Curtis	Erica Hopkins	Jeff Pope	
	David Horner	Sterling Powell	
Jessie Dancy	Chad Horstman		
Amy Datsko	Curtis Howard	Isabella Rambler	
Danielle Davis	Katherine Hullum	Milton Rankins	
Jesse Davis	Nicole Huntsman	Rotisha Ratchford	
William Davis		Megan Raymond	
Robert Day	Lakeia Id Deen	Andrew Renner	
Stephanie DeLeo		Rhonda Riddle	
Bradley Dickey	Dymond Jeffries	Rita Rochford	
Tyler Devenport	Lisa Johnson	Lisa Rotondo	
Bradley Dickey	Roderick Jones	Sally Roupe	
Lisa DiSabato-Moore			
Amanda Dodson	Lisa Karas	Constance Sales	
Kory Dunaway	Christine Kasper	Devon Salsberry	
Kristen Duvall	Rachel Kassinger	Lee Ann Schaffer	
	Joe Kernan	Danielle Schantz	
Lisa Eagle	Getta Kutuchief	Todd Schaufler	
Tiffany Echols		Brandon Short	
Natasha Ervin	Kandice Lacy	Renee Sipe	
Cheryl Evans	Rico Levert	Annie Skapin	
Cara Wolfgram Evans	Jennifer Lewis	Rachel Skipper	
	Brailyn Lightner	Triston Smead	
Chanin Faith	Mary Lorenzo	Angela Smith	

* list includes part-time employees, interns, and employees who worked a portion of 2025 at the Court.



Turning lives around one child at a time.

The **2025 Annual Report** is a publication of Summit County Juvenile Court, located at 650 Dan Street, Akron, Ohio 44310.

For more information about the topics covered in this report, call 330-379-3616.

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