



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 12, 2026

Contact: Don Ursetti (330-379-3616)

[dursetti@juvenilecourt.summitoh.net](mailto:dursetti@juvenilecourt.summitoh.net)

**JUVENILE COURT WELCOMES FIRST CFLE CLASS UNDER ITS STEWARDSHIP**

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio and the Summit County Juvenile Court hosted 30 members of the thirtieth class of the Child & Family Leadership Exchange (CFLE) after 29 years under the leadership of Summit County Children Services.

"We enthusiastically accept this opportunity," said Judge Teodosio. "CFLE has become a staple in our community, cultivating leaders from agencies and organizations throughout Summit County."

The Child & Family Leadership Exchange was formed in 1994 at the request of the Summit Forum, a collaboration of chief executive officers and directors of 21 Summit County child-serving agencies. One year earlier, the Summit Forum had conducted an interactive, interagency seminar (Close-Up) for agency line staff as part of Child & Family Awareness Month. The seminar revealed an insufficient understanding among agency staff of the connections between services provided for children in the community.

The proposed solution was to continue the annual Close-Up program for line staff, and to begin an in-depth, inter-agency training program for managers, modeled after the successful Leadership Akron program. The Akron Community Foundation provided a grant of \$10,000 in 1994 to make creation of the Child & Family Leadership Exchange possible. To date, professionals participating have included social workers, attorneys, educators, health care providers, law enforcement, social services agency staff, and faith community leaders.

This year's class represents 22 Summit County based agencies. The group will meet monthly and be asked to conduct various projects and assignments that seek to enhance team building, decision-making, collaboration, and creative thinking; all qualities that they can take back to their respective jobs.

This year's class members are: Kate Backur, Ohio Job & Family Services, Nicholas Baechel, ADM Board, Tyler Britton, Juvenile Court, Alexandra Burt, Executive's Office, Pamela Crooks, Child Guidance & Family Solutions, Melissa Fangos, Summit Legal Defenders, Katelyn Gorgus, Akron Children's Hospital, Gregory Harrison, Antioch Baptist Church, Kristen Hines, SC Job & Family Services), Edward Hornacek, Akron Police Department, Pam Hunt, and Augusta Jordan, Summit DD, Brittant Kelker, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Michael Kranek, Summit Legal Defenders, Abbey Leonard, Sheriff's Office, Rachel Lipford, Summit Legal Defenders, Leah Marino, Children Services, Allison Marquis, CASA/GAL, Herman Masterson, House of the Lord,

Angela McAlarney, Bellfaire JCB, Mary Ann Mendlik, Juvenile Court, Jennifer Montisano, Akron Public Schools, Tracy Pedani, Children Services, Mariah Propst, Stow Police Department, Chelsea Robertson, Victim Assistance Program, Samantha Salamon, ASIA, Inc., Patricia Lynn Seifert, Domestic Relations Court, Emily Smith, Akron Municipal Court, Ian Taylor, Job & Family Services, and Adam Testa, Juvenile Court.

Judge Teodosio selected Special Programs and Reform Administrator Lisa DiSabato-Moore to chair the Steering Committee that will shape the direction of this year's class activities.

"We are humbled to be asked to take the lead of the Child and Family Leadership Exchange," she said. "We look forward to facilitating learning opportunities for this group of emerging leaders in our community. The committee members congratulate the members of Class XXX and we look forward to offering them a year that we hope they find fulfilling and educational."