

Juvenile Detention Center

Amazing Things Are Happening Here!

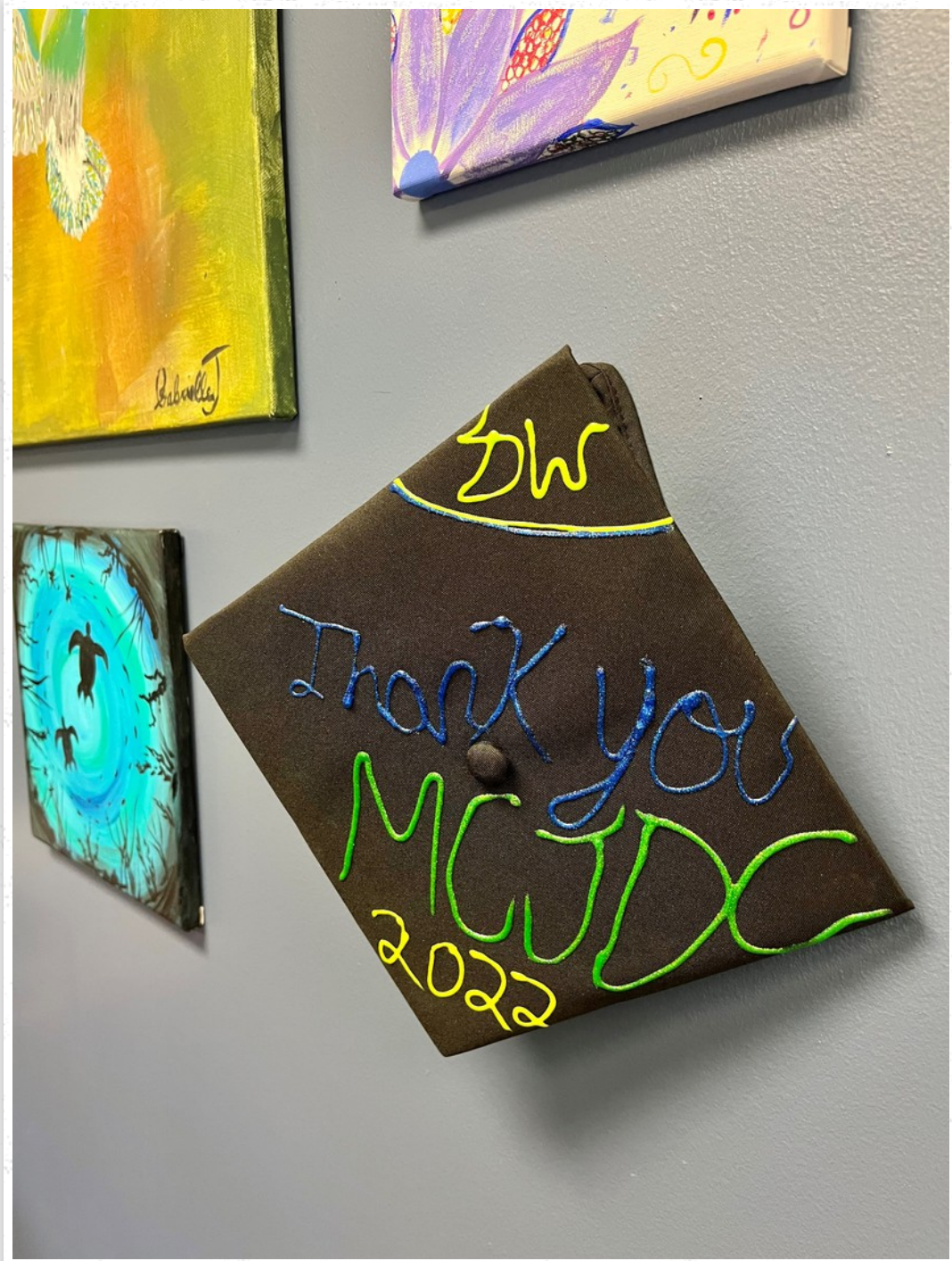
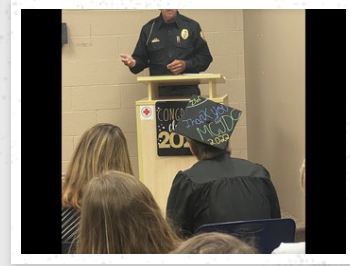
July 2022

A Changed Life!

We had a young man with us for 259 consecutive days (he has been referenced a couple of times in past newsletters). We called him "Noah" in last month's newsletter. When Noah came into our custody last year his life was in a bad place. His mother is a drug addict and his father is in prison. Noah didn't care about much, and especially did not care about school or education at all. He had no desire to even graduate high school, being more interested in drugs and alcohol. After months of encouragement from folks both inside, as well as outside our building, Noah began to see value in living. He began putting effort into his school work, and recently graduated.

We have had youth graduate high school in the past while with us but Noah had to come from farther behind than probably anyone else in a similar situation we have had here, so we held our first-ever graduation ceremony for him. It was attended by staff members, court personnel, Job and Family personnel, the Medina City Schools assistant superintendent, and others. Noah specifically thanked one of our teachers, Ms. Wendy Chasar, for his success. Noah was released from our care this month, and as noted in last month's newsletter, he started on a new job as an apprentice electrician at YES Electric.

Noah is doing well, and we wanted to share this with you. He gifted his graduation cap, which he decorated, to us as a thank-you. The cap is on display in Superintendent Stollar's office. We enjoyed being a small part of his success.



Coil Quilling

We are thankful to Access the Arts for sending artist Elise Helms to us this month to create some coil quilling pieces with our kids. As you can see from these partially completed frames

as they formed each piece of paper into the designs that they themselves created. Elise with her own sample she made for our kids. Beautiful, yes?



Power of Work

I was invited by Goodwill Youth Services to share with some teens what it is like to work at a juvenile detention center, so on July 13th I did just that. I spent the morning participating in a program called Power of Work. This is a program comprised of case managers and job coaches that encourage and help at-risk youth achieve their diplomas, and help provide work and job skills training. Goodwill works alongside communities to help train teen participants by giving them actual work experience in various businesses in Wayne and Holmes Counties.

I participated in their Law Enforcement Exploration Day at the Goodwill Training Center in Wooster, Ohio. Represented were the Ohio Highway Patrol, a police officer, one retired U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent, two Medway drug enforcement agents, a probation officer and myself (Youth Fulfilment Coordinator). We spoke to several groups of at-risk youth explaining what our day-to-day duties consisted of. We also explained the educational route we pursued to be successful in the careers we are in now. These youth had an opportunity to connect with all of us; asking us questions regarding the paths that led us to where we are now. I informed the youth on our detention operations, and explained how kids come to be detained with us. The experience was valuable to us as well, getting to hear the youths' individual stories and being able to talk with them about their excitement for their respective futures. It is cliché - but it is also true - that our youth truly are our future!

- Youth Fulfilment Coordinator Leann Vandever

Writers in Residence

The following was written by one of our kids as an exercise with the nonprofit, Writers in Residence.

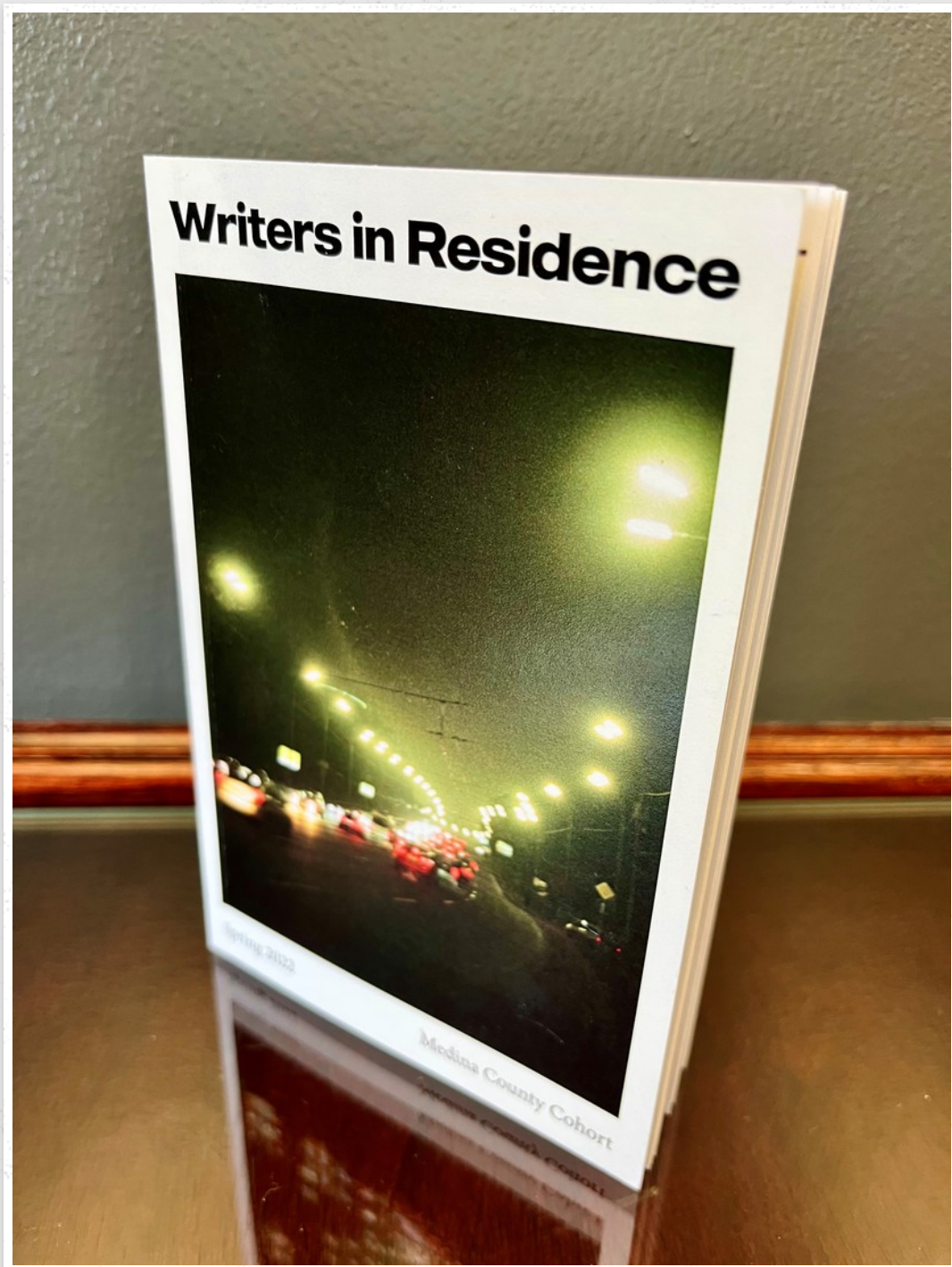
"I ran the streets like you wouldn't believe

It was a first for me, I was 17

*Sitting back in the cold cell block
wishing I had never wrapped my hand around that glock.*

*Ever since then I've gone downhill.
I'm just glad I'm here now.
Given a chance to get my life together.
A chance to make my future better.
I dropped out twice, finishing was
something I never thought I would do.
I got goals of things I want to do.
But seeing my son is at the top of the list.
I don't want him to see me in chains,
so I am going to take this opportunity
to change to spare any pain."*

- 17 year old male

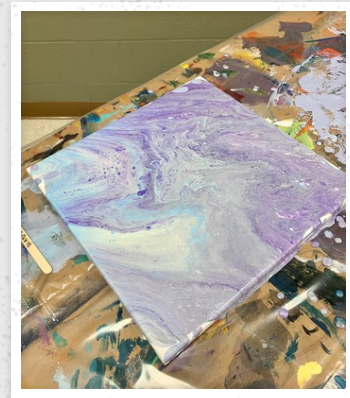
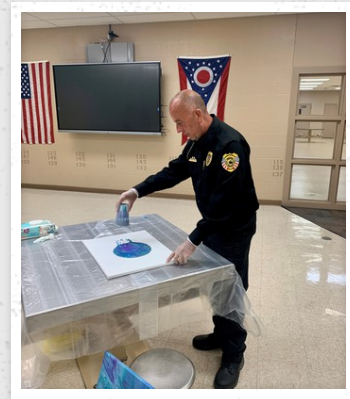
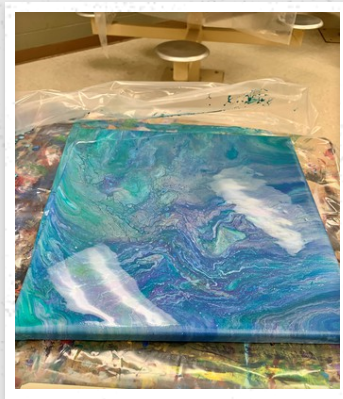
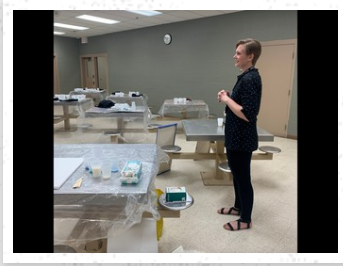


There are dozens of writings by our kids in the chapbooks Writers in Residence creates!

Pour Paints!

Aimee Adams from the Medina Library joined us recently, creating some pour paint canvasses with our kids. Aimee (below left) enlisted the assistance of Superintendent Stollar to

demonstrate the project. Needless to say, the kids' pour paints came out better than Stollar's. Thank you, Aimee!



**"A child who is not embraced by his village
will burn it down to feel its warmth."**

(African proverb)

**Assistant Superintendent Millikin's kitty, Colby,
visited us recently. He enjoyed the view from Stollar's
office. (He also enjoyed knocking a few things over!)**



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Contact Us!

655 Independence Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256

Phone: 330-764-8408

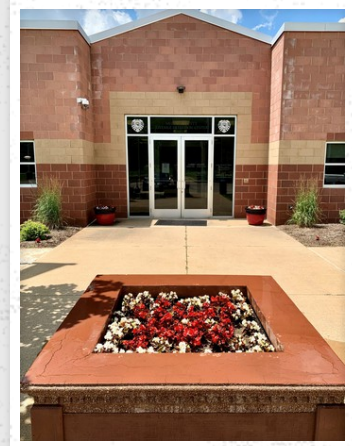
Fax: 330-764-8412

Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

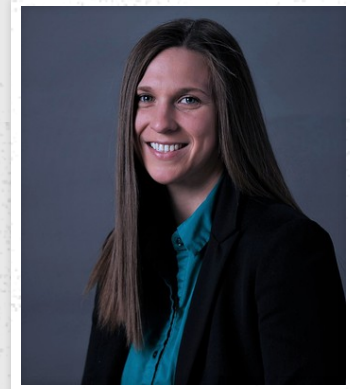
www.medinajdc.org



**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn;
Juvenile/Probate
Court**



**Ron Stollar;
Superintendent**



**Megan Millikin;
Assistant
Superintendent**

"We are making the Medina community a better place by inspiring troubled youth to become responsible, productive citizens."

