

Juvenile Detention Center

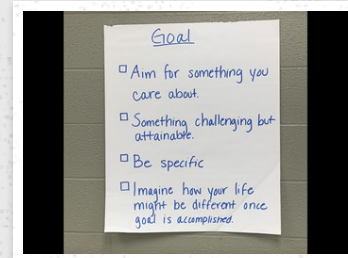
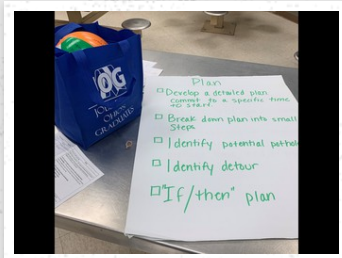
Amazing Things Are Happening Here!

March 2022

Jobs For Ohio's Graduates

Pamela Crombie, from Jobs For Ohio's Graduates, visited us this month. Pamela started off with an ice breaker activity with our kids before spending time teaching about goal-setting, and working with them to plan for their futures. We appreciate so many good people in our community who care about our kids and want to help them. Thank you JOG and Pamela!

www.jogworks.com



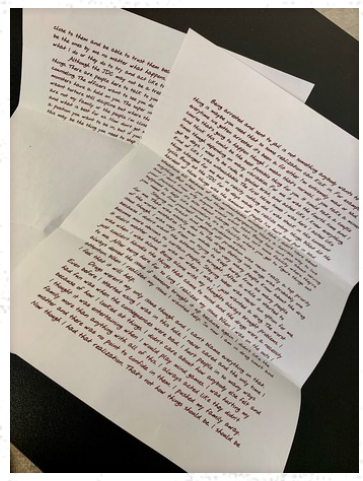
And Heere's
Pamela!

Art on Medina Square

The Medina County Schools Student Art Show on Medina Square is wrapping up for 2022 and once again, we were invited to participate! We have two boards displaying eighteen original pieces of art created by our kids. This event is in collaboration with Main Street Medina, the Medina County Arts Foundation, Medina County Arts Council, and Huntington Bank.

See Vanna, oops - we mean Youth Fulfilment Coordinator Leann Vandever below with some of our art!





Resident Letter

One of our youth wanted to share her thoughts on her experience with us:

"Being arrested and sent to jail is not something anybody wants to do. The thing is maybe you need that so some realization can kick in. For example, every time I've gotten arrested it's been a fit; either I'm extremely mad or sad. Of course that's going to happen though I mean that's normal. If you take a minute and think, this could be the best possible thing for you. It could take a couple times though depending on many variables. For me, it was the fourth time and I got 90 days. I used to be rude, a spoiled brat, and acted like I knew everything; kind of like I was untouchable. The first three times I was here I acted like things changed for me but in reality nothing did. I was stuck in this constant cycle. Being at the JDC for 90 days made me realize many things. What hit the hardest of those things was the amount of people I've hurt and put in bad situations all because of that untouchable mindset I had. I didn't care about anything. But when you put things into perspective, that's a horrible way to live and I don't know why anyone would want that. Being here isn't just about serving your punishment, it's also about change. Now this isn't some

facility where you get to figure things out, you need to find yourself and the problems within.

Staying on track and getting off probation was never really a top priority for me. That was usually due to the drugs. Getting into drugs was probably one of the worst mistakes I've ever made. Not many people know about the drug issue though. I was very keen on trying to keep away as many people because I didn't want the attention brought to it. After awhile, it started to become more obvious to certain people. Staying sober was never an option for me. It didn't matter what it was or where I was, I just wanted a drug. The worst was when I was alone. Being alone with my thoughts always brought me problems. I just couldn't handle the things that came to mind and the drugs were a necessity to me. After being here for so long, I realized my issue. When I was on the outs I always denied the issue if someone brought it up because again I didn't like the attention. When I realized my issue, I wanted help. So now I am in drug court and I feel that it will help.

Drugs weren't my only issue though and I can't blame everything on that. Even before I started using I was in this hole. I never cared and the only time I had fun was when the consequences were bad. I hurt people in so many ways because of how I looked at things. I didn't care about how anybody else felt and I thought it was entertaining when I would play mind games. I was hurting my family more than anything with all of this. I always acted like they didn't matter and there was no point to confide in them. I pushed my family away. Now that I had that realization, that's not how things should be. I should be close to them and be able to trust them because at the end of the day, they'll be the ones by me no matter what happens. They're stuck with me no matter what I do or they do to try and act like that isn't a fact.

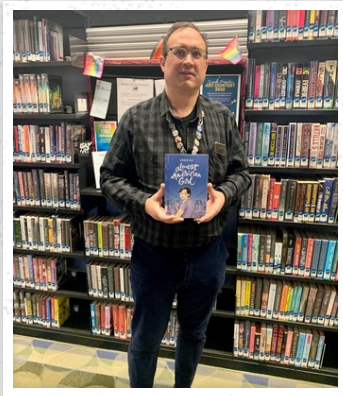
Although the JDC may not be a treatment facility, you can learn many things. There are people here to talk to you when you need it, it's not just counseling. The officers want to see you do good, succeed, and beat whatever monsters that have a hold on you. The superintendent made things to a point where it wasn't torture, but still discipline and there was room for change. The officers here are not my family or the people I'm close to but they are sane human beings and that is what's best for us. Now don't get me wrong, don't ever come here this isn't a position you want to be in. But, if you are in a hole and keep getting in trouble, this may be the thing you need to step on the right path and get back on track."

- 16 Year Old Female Resident

Medina Library Returns!

After a long Covid hiatus, the Medina Library began visiting our kids again this month. Teen Librarian Sean Rapacki played some thought-provoking word games with our kids and talked about some of the services the library system has to offer.

Sean (below) is holding a book that our kids are going to read before the book's author, Robin Ha, visits them in April to have a discussion about it. Robin both wrote *and* illustrated the book! We are looking forward to having Robin join us, and thank the Medina Library for arranging her visit! (www.mcdl.info)



In Remembrance...

We had plaques made in honor of two of our late officers, each of whom we lost far too soon. Their loyalty, dedication, and character will always be remembered within our walls. We thank Officers Don Schroeder and Joshua Kristek for their service to Medina County.

Don Schroeder - *Born October 24, 1985. End of Watch: July 5, 2018*

Joshua Kristek - *Born: October 5, 1977. End of Watch: October 24, 2021*

Special Guest!

We had a beautiful and super friendly visitor come in and spend some time with our kids this week. Her name is Cully, and she is nearly two years old. The Executive Director of The Children's Center of Medina County, Ashli K... with Cully. Ashli is Cully's...

handler and owner. Ms. Krause explained to our kids how Cully is a certified therapy dog who assists kids and their families at The Children's Center. Like the kids that The Children's Center helps, many of our kids have also experienced much trauma in their young lives, and Cully is able to decrease stress and anxiety in those she spends time with.

Thank you, Cully, for bringing Ashley along with you. Cully was overheard barking, "I was SO excited when the Juvenile Detention Center reached out to me about a Spring Break visit! The Children's Center is so proud of our partnership with the JDC. To see the smiles and pure joy that I was able to bring out in those kids was so rewarding. We loved having the opportunity to make their day!"



Intern Experience

"My name is Emalee English and I am currently enrolled at Bowling Green State University studying Criminal Justice with Specialization in Forensic Investigation. I have been an intern for the Medina County Sheriff's Office for approximately eleven weeks now and I have gained insight and knowledge into every division of the Sheriff's Office. I have enjoyed my time with everyone there and wanted to also spend some time at the Juvenile Detention Center to understand and observe working with juveniles.



Getting to be a guest at the JDC for a week showed me a lot of things I didn't realize went on in the world of juvenile corrections. One thing I noticed immediately is that the JDC is a very controlled and structured environment that is not only beneficial to the officers, but most importantly, to the kids. Structure is something that a lot of these kids don't get on a daily basis at home and sometimes parents don't realize how important structure is for adolescent growth.

Every day the schedule is similar, which allows the kids to get into a routine that they quickly memorize. The kids are given clear expectations about what is expected of them from their behavior to their actions. The JDC not only wants kids to follow the rules, but they do a great job of getting the kids to understand the rules and why it is important for them to do so. One thing I learned that was interesting was the Behavioral Level System which designates the level each youth is on. The system begins at Level 1 and progresses up to the highest level, that of Honoree which is all about being a positive role-model for others.

After a set number of days with no rule violations the kids move up to the next level which grants them additional privileges such as more options from Commissary. The idea of the level system helps them strive toward their own potential and gives them incentive to attain Honoree status. I got to observe the kids who were Honorees and they were always respectful, responsible, and encouraged others to follow the rules.

At the JDC, since all of the kids are mandated to be in school, they have to attend every day even if they don't want to. The kids at the JDC are also given one hour of gym per day as well as one hour of passive recreation time. The kids have no access to television unless it's movie night. At the county jail the inmates get to watch tv, take showers in their free time, and sleep if they choose to, all on their own schedule.

The big difference between the JDC and the jail is that the kids are put on a regimented schedule. Since the jail is for adults, there isn't as much routine for them as there is for the kids at the JDC. Although there is structure for the inmates at the jail, the structure and routine at the JDC truly benefit the kids. Every day in jail is what you make it; you either use your time wisely or you spend it sleeping. One thing I liked from both the JDC and the jail is that mental health professionals are staffed in both buildings every day. Mental health affects people of different ages, genders, and races and that's why I think it's extremely beneficial to have them. When kids or adults are in jail, they have a lot of time to think, allowing their thoughts to catch up with them. It goes to show that both buildings care about the inmates by making sure their mental health is a top priority as well as giving them resources to follow up with.

I have enjoyed my time both at JDC and the jail, and learned much from both organizations. The job of a Corrections Officer is not easy, but it is a job that is essential. It was clear to me that officers from the JDC and the jail have safety for the inmates, youth, and staff as their top priority.

Many people have a stigma about jails and how they run because of what they see on television. I advise people to do their own research, get involved in programs that work with

jails, and ask questions if they have them. Jails and correctional facilities are beneficial because of the efforts of all those dedicated individuals who truly care."

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. Each pinwheel represents a child who had an investigated case of abuse or neglect in Medina County during 2021. These pinwheels are displayed in various locations throughout Medina County. We are proud of our partnership with The Children's Center of Medina County! For more information check out www.medinacountychildrenscenter.org.





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@medina.jdc



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Have you missed a newsletter? We archive all of our newsletters on our website. Click the link to see previous issues!

Contact Us!

655 Independence Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256

Phone: 330-764-8408

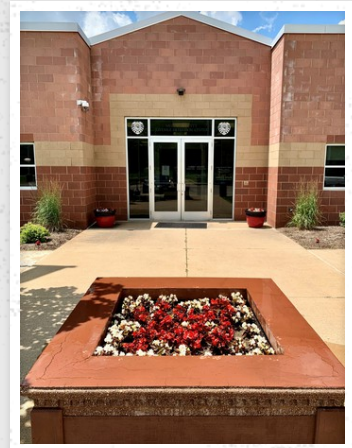
Fax: 330-764-8412

Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

www.medinajdc.org

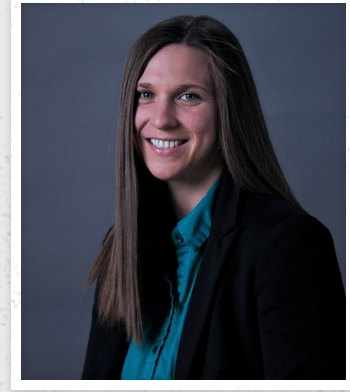




**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn;
Juvenile/Probate
Court**



**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."