

Juvenile Detention Center

Amazing Things Are Happening Here!

November 2022

From Pinks to Camos!

A former resident of ours surprised us all with a visit yesterday - let's call her Lilly. "Lilly" is 18 years old now and is no longer involved with the court system, having gotten her life straightened out. She stopped in to thank us for helping her during her detainments with us and to let us know she is enlisting in the U.S. Navy. She specifically requested to see some of our staff members who helped her get her life on track. She wrote the following to us. *(The title above is a reference to the uniform she wore while with us vs. the uniform she will be wearing soon. She came up with the title!)*

"The first time I stepped foot in the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center I was detained for a disorderly conduct charge in September of 2021. I was on probation for several months prior to that. After my first experience there I always told myself I would never ever step foot in there again. In February of 2022 I was once again detained for a probation violation, that stay lasted for two months. I kept telling myself I changed but in truth I didn't learn a single thing. The third and final time I was detained was once again for a probation violation. That time it clicked that I had to do good for myself from here on out because I would be 18 in less than 6 months; I was sentenced to 90 days. I would sit in my cell during the reading hours we had and reflect on my actions. Even though I had no faith in myself; the correctional officers, social workers, teachers, and Superintendent Stollar all believed in me. They saw me at the lowest of my lows and still believed that I would do good. After I got released in mid-June this year and terminated from probation I realized I couldn't keep living the life I was living; if I did it would end in either jails, institutions, or death. I moved to Pennsylvania for a few months to change my scenery and better myself. After I moved back I decided I should join the United States Armed Forces. My mother was so proud of my decision and attended with me to the Air Force and Navy recruitment offices. My mother and I decided that the Navy would be the best fit for

me. I started the process of enlistment in early November. It hasn't been an easy process since I had a juvenile criminal history. I pushed myself to the best of my abilities to make something of myself. I stopped by the JDC to inform them of this very important life change and that I was doing better for myself. The staff there nearly brought me to tears while telling me how proud they were of me. They saw the bigger person I had become due to my past experience of being there and the life I was making for myself. I am submitting all my paperwork to the Military Enlistment Processing Station on Monday, the 2nd of December, if everything goes smoothly I will get approval for a physical examination by the 12th of December. Once I get the approval from the processing station I am able to leave for Great Lakes Boot Camp in Chicago, Illinois the next day. Without going to the JDC I would have never been encouraged to change my lifestyle. Without the staff there I would have never been able to say that I get the honor to serve my country!"

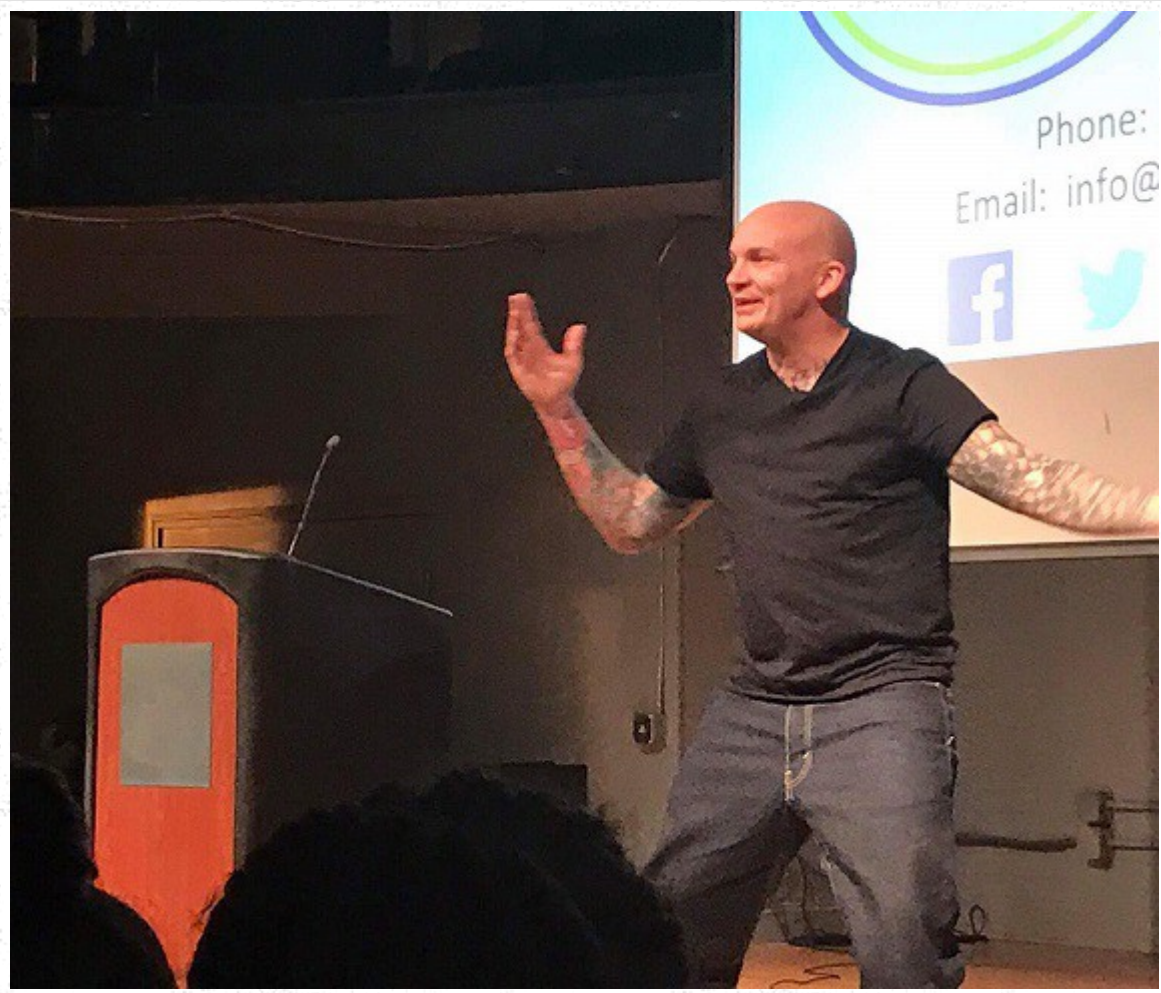
We wish Lilly all the best!



Fighter Against Child Abuse

A friend of ours, Mike Pistorino, visited our kids this month and shared his troubled past in the hope that his story will benefit them. Mike has visited us in the past and it is always a pleasure to have him with us. Mike was raped as a child for several years by an uncle of his and this, of course, affected him profoundly. Mike turned to drugs and alcohol at a young age to cope with what was happening to him. He ended up in prison for several years but after he was out for a while he got his life turned around and has been on the straight and narrow for many years now. He has been known to say that after far too long he finally figured out that he was allergic to crime because every time he got caught he broke out in handcuffs!

Mike is a crusader against child abuse and has traveled the country sharing his life with others to make a difference in this world. His passion for his cause is unparalleled and we are fortunate to have him as a friend who cares enough about kids that he volunteers untold hours fighting for them. (www.mikepistorino.us)

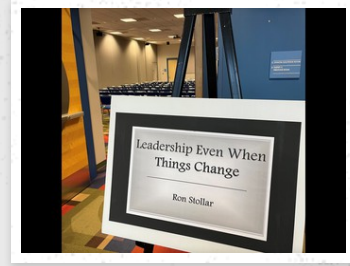
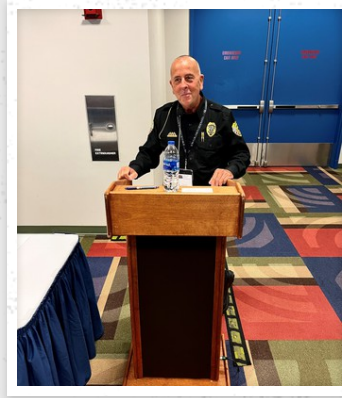


Youth Leadership Development

Jobs for Ohio's Graduates held their annual conference on leadership at the John S. Knight Center in Akron for approximately 300 high school students. These students were from 24 different schools in northeast Ohio, and Superintendent Stollar was invited to speak to these young leaders on the topic of **Leadership Even When Things Change**. Ron spoke about how his life was suddenly and drastically changed when he and his family were hit head-on by a drunk driver, and Ron was not expected to live for more than a few hours due to the seriousness of his injuries.

Obviously, Ron did survive but his life was forever changed. He was never able to go back out on patrol in the job he loved (or do a lot of other things physically due to pain and physical limitations that still affect him today). All of this led to a change in careers when he left the Medina Police Department and started working at our detention center where he had to learn a whole new job with all its challenges and responsibilities. The message is quite simple really; *giving up when faced with major setbacks and life-altering change is not an option. Figuring out how to best move forward is.*

(www.jogworks.org)



Stollar

Playing On The One

This month Olugbala Manns, also known as Brother Olu, visited our youth and spent an hour teaching them all about African Drumming. Brother Olu, is a professor at Kent State University in African Studies and also teaches in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. He shared with our youth that he teachers more than 1500 people per week!

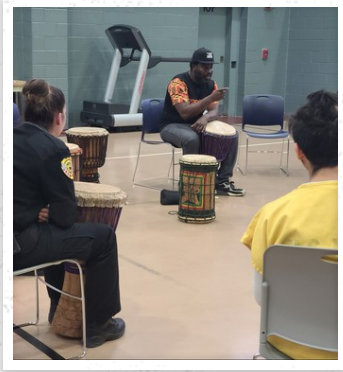
During his time with us, he educated our kids on 2 different types of African drums, the Djembe and the DunDun. The Djembe is one of the most common, has a specific shape the be held between the legs and his played with bare hands. The Dundun often accompanies the Djembe, is played with wooden drum sticks and is often used to set the rhythm of the song. Both drums have hollow wooden bodies and are made of goat or cow hide. All of the drums that were played were handmade by Brother Olu and his father. Brother Olu's family comes from a long line of African Drum makers and his family continues to make drums today. Brother Olu also spent time teaching everyone how to play the drums and then allowed them to pick out which drum they were interested in playing.



Brother Olu's message was one of unity and explained playing, "on the one," means staying together in harmony. He expressed the importance of having discipline and responsibility to be successful. Lastly, at the end of the session, Brother Olu expressed to our youth the importance of music and how it makes each individual feel inside. He pointed out to them that when he first arrived everyone had subdued and uninterested faces, BUT by the end each person was upbeat and energized. Our youth had a great time and hope Brother Olu can visit us again soon!

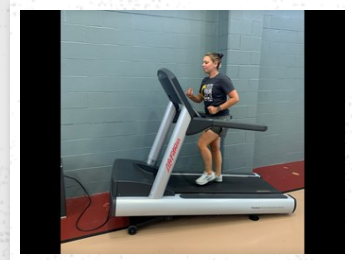
Brother Olu came to us through our treasured partnership with Access the Arts!

www.accessthearts.net



Muscles and Mental Health

What most refer to as gym, we call large muscle recreation and is required by Ohio law to be given each day for a minimum of one hour. Some may ask, "Why should you let kids run around and play if they are in jail?", and the answer to that is simple—**MENTAL HEALTH**. Your mind and body are closely connected. When you simply get up and walk for 5 minutes, your brain releases a "feel good" chemical. Physical activity could be identified as a key coping skill to mental health wellness. Physical activity can aid in decreasing anxiety and depression all while fighting off negative moods. Allowing the kids to have free physical movement decreases the feeling of tension within the body. Playing games such as basketball or volleyball allows a positive outlet for anger and frustration. As a mental health clinician, going into gym and engaging in games such as basketball with the kids aids in creating a therapeutic relationship and creates conversation for future therapeutic sessions.



- LISW-S Alexis Lee

Leadership Medina County

This year's signature class of Leadership Medina County visited us this month. Judge Kevin Dunn, Magistrate Susana Lewis and Court Administrator Jennifer Moore presented to the class on the juvenile justice system to include court proceedings and describe the different programs they utilize to help the youth involved in the court system. Superintendent Ron Stollar had the opportunity to speak about the detention center and share some of the success stories he has seen through his tenure. During their session the class members were given a tour of our building and the importance of each area was explained to them. Here are a few of their comments;

"Incredible resources available to residents in crisis!"

"I appreciated learning about the detention center. I liked the approach they have - that people make mistakes and that they can make a difference in their lives."

"I was inspired by the officers and staff at the juvenile detention center. They have a hard job but were able to convey how proud they are of what they do."

"Thank you for the work you do everyday. It's making a difference."

We always enjoy hosting LMC!

www.leadershipmedinacounty.org



Career Fair

Sergeant Leann Vandever and Superintendent Stollar attended Black River High School's Career Fair where they got to speak one-on-one with students throughout the day about jobs in corrections. They fielded a lot of good questions and met some really nice kids!





**LISW Alexis Lee waiting to be rescued
after spotting a spider in her office.**



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Contact Us!

655 Independence Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256

Phone: 330-764-8408

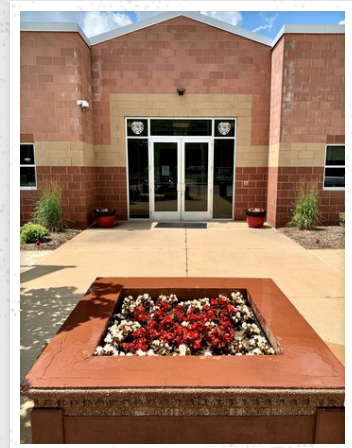
Fax: 330-764-8412

Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

www.medinajdc.org

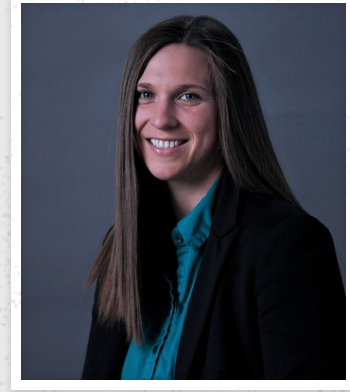




**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn;
Juvenile/Probate
Court**



**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."