

# Juvenile Detention Center

Amazing Things Are Happening Here!

## September 2022

### Letter From a Resident

One of our residents was with us for 59 days. In speaking with her, she was telling me how much she felt her stay with us helped her so I asked her if she would be interested in writing about it for all of YOU. Here is what she wrote:

*"I am grateful that Superintendent Stollar gave me the opportunity to share my experience here at the JDC. I first want to talk about the teachers here, and what they have helped me achieve. They have aided me in applying for colleges and have shown me even while I'm here I can accomplish great things for my future education. I am also grateful for their extensive library that has become a coping mechanism for my anxiety. They even reached out the extra helping hand and let me take home some books!*

*Second, I want to talk about the JDC social workers. They have advocated and fought for me my entire stay here. I just want to thank them for going above and beyond to make sure I have a safety plan when I go home. They have talked to everyone in the court system for all of us here to make sure we get the help we need. They also give us advice, answer our court questions, and provide counseling services. By supporting mental health, they help us have a successful stay here.*

*Finally, I want to tell you about the journey I have taken inside myself. I have learned a lot here, and have shown everyone around me I actually can control my behavior. But more importantly, I have proved this to myself. I have realized that life is going to be a roller coaster full of ups and downs. But it's what you do about it that really matters, that sets you aside from everyone else. I spent a lot of time blaming others for what I have done to put myself here. But I have also spent a lot of time with myself, looking at the role I played in how I got to this point.*

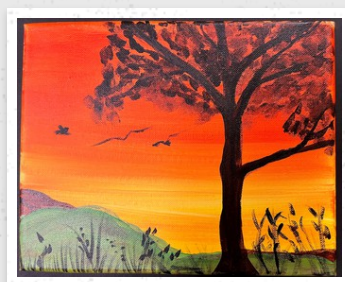
*Taking responsibility for your actions is the first step in self-improvement, and learning from them is the second. I am still working on my progress, but I will take what I learned here and use it to continue to change and flourish at home."*

*- 17 year-old female resident*

## **Art With A Heart**

We continue to enjoy our partnership with The Children's Center of Medina County, and are looking forward to their annual Art With a Heart For Children fundraiser! Just like the past several years, this event will have artwork created by some of our kids. This fundraiser will be held on Friday, November 4th, from 5:30pm - 8:30pm at the Blue Heron Event Center. Come and join us for a great cause!

<https://medinacountychildrenscenter.org/2022/09/26/8th-annual-art-with-a-heart-auction-benefit/>





8th ANNUAL

# ART

With A Heart  
For Children  
Auction & Benefit

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022



A variety of original multi-media art will be on display and available for auction at this exciting affair.

Art With A Heart will include select pieces from local community artists including Medina County Juvenile Detention Center.

Preview, Silent Auction, Cocktails, Appetizers & Music  
at 5:30 PM  
Live Auction at 7:00 PM  
Blue Heron Event Center, Medina, Ohio  
\$60 per person

The Children's Center of Medina County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing services for victims of child abuse and neglect in Medina County.



Scan QR code for more information and  
to register online



Please register by Thursday, October 27

Further Information: 330.591.2682 or [medinacountychildrenscenter.org](http://medinacountychildrenscenter.org)

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**

## Writers in Residence

**Writers in Residence** is back with us for another 12-week cycle. This will be their fourth time working with our kids, who really enjoy Zachary Thomas and his volunteers. In case you missed WiR in the past, they are a nonprofit organization whose mission is to EMPOWER (throughout Ohio) detained youth's voices, and ASSIST them in re-entering society. Their values are; Justice, Empowerment, Dignity, Community, and Relationships.

We look forward to seeing what our kids come up with over the three months but for now, here are a couple of their writings from earlier this year exactly as they wrote them.

*"I see myself getting off probation  
and focusing on school  
Focusing on myself  
and bettering everything in my life  
the freedom  
of it all scares me  
'cause I don't want to get in trouble  
again.  
When I achieve this, I see myself feeling  
a weight lifted off my shoulders  
a breath I've been holding released."*

- **Written by T.A.** (15 yoa female)

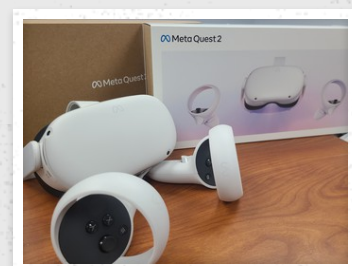
*"What scares me is going out in the real world and messing up. Not having enough structure. My grandma can hold me accountable and make sure I'm giving myself structure."*

- **Written by A.S.** (16 yoa female)

## Exciting Update!

In last month's newsletter we announced an Exciting Teaser that we wanted to share with you all. Well... this past year we received funds from a Title I education grant, which is awarded by the Ohio Department of Education. These funds gave us the opportunity to not only upgrade, but to think outside of the box to give our youth some new and unique experiences. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we had a room in our building we called our "*computer lab.*"

We have since upgraded this lab to a new space we are calling our Imagination Station! This space now includes a 65-inch Boxlight Smartboard, three Robo 3-D printers, five virtual reality goggles, and an engraving machine. We will have many possibilities to provide opportunities for our youth to learn, create, and cultivate their amazing thought processes. We look forward to the many creations our youth are sure to come up with, and we will share those with you as we move forward. *(See close-up of the engraved plaque below.)*

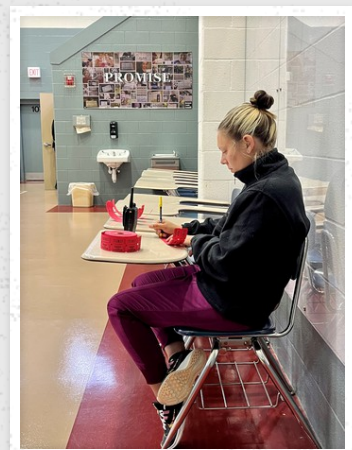






## Progress!

We have a young man detained with us right now who has been with us several times in the past. Like many of our kids, he has not had an easy childhood and has not been one of the best behaved youth during his prior detainments. This time, however; he surprised us and worked his way through our Behavioral Level System, earning our highest level - that of Honoree! When asked why such a big change this time around he replied, *"I'm facing some serious charges and want to show the court that I can make good decisions."* We are all wishing him well!



*ABOVE: Mental health clinician Alexis Lee assisting with gym and issuing rewards for good sportsmanship and effort*



*BELOW: Our Honoree shooting hoops.*



## **Promotion!**

We congratulate Leann "Vandy" Vandever who was promoted from Youth Fulfilment Coordinator to the rank of Sergeant this month. Leann has been with us a little more than three years now after graduating from Tiffin University with a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology, and Addictions Counseling. Prior to us hiring her, Leann did an internship with the Advocacy and Public Policy Office for the National Down Syndrome Society where she met on Capitol Hill with Senator and state Representatives.

Sgt. Vandever said; *"I love the standards that are held here - it makes it a wonderful place to work, a place you can take pride in."* When Vandy isn't at work she enjoys writing, photography,

and kayaking. **Random fact:** her chili is to die for!



## Congratulations!

The Wadsworth Area Chamber of Commerce and Board of Directors presented their 41st Rosie Awards this week to several individuals, businesses, and organizations. This award recognizes and honors folks who make the Wadsworth community a great place to live and work.

The Children's Center received this honor for **Outstanding Nonprofit of the Year**, with Executive Director, Ashley Krause (center), accepting it. Supporting Ashley were Board members, Diane Meckes, Ron Stollar, and Michelle Reese. Director of Development, Anna Guy-Leach, was also in attendance. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we love our partnership with The Children's Center. Congrats again!!





**VANDY!**

**Where do you take someone who has been injured in a Peek-a-Boo accident? To the**

**I.C.U.!**





@medinajdc



@medina.jdc



@medina\_jdc

**[Click here for past newsletters!](#)**

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

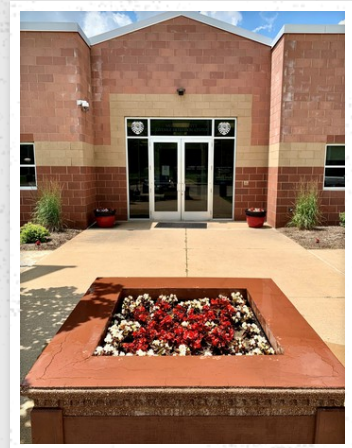
Fax: 330-764-8412

Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

[www.medinajdc.org](http://www.medinajdc.org)

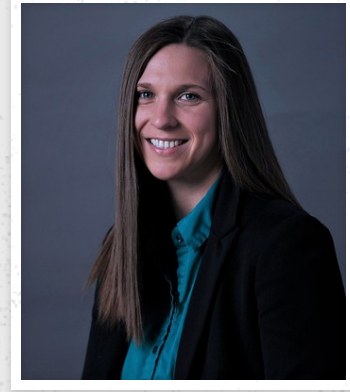




**Judge Kevin W.  
Dunn;  
Juvenile/Probate  
Court**



**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."*