

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN FEBRUARY 2014

Judge Dunn Speaks at e4 Youth Summit

Judge Kevin Dunn spoke to approximately 220 students at the inaugural United Way of Medina County's e4 Youth Summit February 19, 2014 at the Blair Center about his life and how the tough times in his past helped push him to where he is now.

To start the day on a light note before sharing his personal story, the Judge showed a Saturday Night Live skit of motivational speaker Matt Foley, played by comedian Chris Farley.

"I had a lot of humor in my household growing up," Judge Dunn said. "My family was also very supportive and motivated me."

He said his biggest role model was his grandfather who used to tell him, "Work hard. You're never going to drown in your own sweat."

The Judge told the students how he grew up tough but quiet, with the same stressors they may be experiencing in their lives. He wondered if he was normal, compared himself to others to see if he measured up, all while trying to figure out who he was and what he wanted to do when he got older.



Volunteer facilitators and Judge Dunn on the second day of the Summit February 28, 2014.



Judge Dunn with participants at the inaugural e4 Youth Summit.

"I learned early that life is tough and sometimes it isn't fair," he said. "Sometimes anger and failure can drive you, if you handle it the right way."

When he was a senior in high school, the Judge transferred from the suburban Medina High to the rural confines of New London, Ohio.

"I started to open up there," he said. "My mom would probably argue I haven't shut up since."

After high school, Judge Dunn attended Miami University. It was at Miami University during his junior year when the Judge came to experience a thread common to many of the e4 Summit attendees, that of suicide. The Judge relayed his struggle dealing with the loss of a fraternity brother, who secreted his bipolar disorder and ultimately took his own life. Judge Dunn confided to the students that he has never spoken about this event, grieving and its haunting effects upon

him to anyone outside a close circle of friends. The event caused him to remember to never lose sight of the people around him.

After Miami University, the Judge went to law school at the University of Akron. He did well in law school despite the fact he disliked the dehumanizing nature of the studies. The Judge had no doubt he would pass the bar exam, but due to a grading error, he didn't.

"I had dozens of people calling to congratulate me and I had to tell them I failed," Judge Dunn said.

When the grading error was realized, Judge Dunn was essentially told "too bad" and that he would have to take the exam again.

"You have to try again," he said. "I did and I blew the bar away."

After passing the exam in 1991, the Judge worked in private practice for 22 years in Medina County before being appointed Juvenile and Probate Judge in August 2013. He told the e4 Summit attendees that tough times are going to come and plans are going to change as life goes on, sometimes for the better.

"Life is going to dump dirt on you sometimes," Judge Dunn told the students. "Shake it off and continue to step up. The trick is to expect less from other people and more from yourself."



To learn more about the
e4 Youth Summit, visit www.UnitedWayMedina.org

Ohio Department of Youth Services Directors Tour Detention Center

Officials from the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) were in Medina County February 24. After visiting with current Medina County juvenile parolees, they met with Judge Kevin Dunn and court staff at the Juvenile Detention Center to tour the facility.

Judge Dunn, ODYS Director Harvey Reed, Assistant Director Linda Janes and other officials discussed the court's collaboration with the community to offer programs such as Probation, Camp Integrity and Girls Circle, among others, to court-involved youth.

Assistant Director Linda Janes applauded the success she's noticed with Medina County's Drug



From left to right: Ryan Gies, Deputy Director Courts and Community Services; Cedric Collins, Legislative Liaison; Linda Janes, Assistant Director ODYS; Judge Kevin Dunn; Harvey Reed, Director ODYS; Kevin Shepherd, Bureau Chief for Release Authority

Court and Multi-Systemic Therapy programs. The officials also complimented Judge Dunn and his staff for their efforts to couple services with local agencies.

"We are fortunate to have such great collaborations," Judge Dunn told the ODYS officials. "We want to have the kids more active and involved in our community and utilize all possible outlets for help closer to home before sending them to DYS."

Ryan Gies, Deputy Director for Courts and Community Services, agreed with the Judge.

"It's great that Medina is focused on matching the youth's needs on a local level so they don't have to go up the next rung on the ladder," Gies said.

Medina County currently has two youth committed in ODYS and three monitored on parole.

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the state agency responsible for delinquents incarcerated by local juvenile courts. Juvenile courts receive annual allocations from DYS for the local treatment of youthful felony offenders.

Junior LMC Visits Detention Center



Judge Dunn shows off meals JDC residents will receive for lunch.

After their morning at the County Jail and visiting Common Pleas Judge Collier at the courthouse, the Junior Leadership Medina County class of 2014 visited the JDC February 4, 2014.

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court Judge Kevin Dunn and JDC Superintendent Ron Stollar spoke to 33 members of the class about the 30-bed detention

facility as well as court programs and procedures.

Unlike the Leadership Medina County government day in December, Junior Leadership was not permitted to tour the facility due to confidentiality of the residents. During the one-hour presentation, Judge Dunn and Stollar shared the rules and daily schedule residents of

the detention center must follow every day. The Judge also showed an example of the meals provided to the JDC by the county jail, which a couple members of the class tasted.

"The rules are strict but I think they are fair and necessary," said Olivia, a sophomore at Brunswick High School and member of JLMC. "I knew kids with behavior problems in middle school, but once I got to high school I didn't notice them anymore. Students tend to be separated by their reputations or academic levels."

Judge Dunn said he hopes members of JLMC recognize that juvenile offenders may not be afforded the same opportunities as those participating in Junior Leadership, but are members of the same community. He asked the class to recognize their position to help make a change and demonstrate their capacity to be a leader to court-involved youth.

"These kids in here are part of your community and your classmates," Judge Dunn told the class. "It's our job to help rehabilitate them and provide that fire in their bellies that you as junior leaders already have."

Historical Society Delivers Munson Portrait for Display



Joann King presents Judge Kevin Dunn with a portrait of early Medina County Probate Judge Albert Munson in its original frame.

The Medina County Probate Court office is the new temporary home for an 1880s portrait of Albert Munson, an early Medina County Probate Judge.

Joann King from the Medina County Historical Society delivered the portrait in its original molded plaster frame to Judge Kevin Dunn February 11, 2014 on a temporary loan.

King said the portrait, a tinted photograph, most likely hung in Munson's courtroom or office when he was judge from 1878 to 1885. After his term as judge, the portrait remained in the Munson House before the home and its belongings were willed to the Medina Historical Society in 1956.

Judge Dunn said he hopes this collaboration with the

Historical Society will increase interest in community history.

"The goal is to make sure our history isn't lost or overlooked," Judge Dunn said.

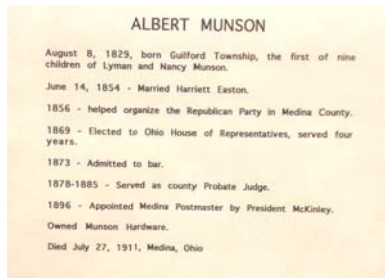
The Munson portrait will remain at the courthouse for approximately three months, rotating with other items from the Historical Society for display. Plans are already in place for a shadow box to be built to hold court seals and historic documents. Judge Dunn said there is also talk of a Civil War Soldiers series.

King said the Historical Society also has two oil portraits of H.G. Blake, a prominent Medina attorney during the 1800s, and his wife that she believes are a possibility to exhibit in the Court.

"We just have to be concerned about light and sun exposure," King said. "We will factor all of that in before we make any decisions of what we will bring here."

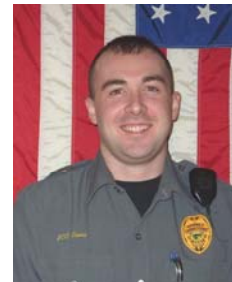
Juvenile and Probate Court Administrator Sharon Danko said because the Historical Society has limited hours of operation, having items on display in the Court gives the community a greater chance to view them.

The Historical Society is open the public on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To learn more about the Medina County Historical Society, visit www.MedinaHistorical.com.



This plaque with information on Munson will be mounted below the tinted photograph.

Corporal Sams Voted JDC MVP



Corporal Shane Sams has been chosen as the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center's Most Valuable Player for 2014, as voted by his

fellow employees.

Each year, the facility's employees are asked to recognize one person whom they believe meets all of the necessary criteria to earn the title of MVP.

"When I saw the ballots, I agreed," said JDC Superintendent Ron Stollar. "His interaction with the kids is outstanding and he has a real talent for deescalating the residents and situations."

Sams began working at the JDC in July 2012 and was promoted to Corporal in October 2013.

He said he believes his coworkers chose him because of his willingness to help train others, communicate and meet expectations of the detention center.

"The best part about being voted MVP is simply knowing that my hard work and dedication to this facility is paying off and is recognized," Sams said. "Plus, I do like to brag a little."

In order to earn the title of MVP, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Exemplifies the MCJDC mission and vision in his/her daily work duties
2. Consistently demonstrates superior customer service
3. Consistently performs beyond the scope of their regular work duties
4. Consistently enhances the image of the MCJDC
5. Consistently demonstrates an encouraging and positive demeanor
6. Consistently performs a high level of quality work

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Valentine's Day Weddings Continue

Judge Kevin Dunn continued the tradition of marrying couples on Valentine's Day in his courtroom. Below are photos of the ten happy couples who decided the holiday would make the perfect anniversary.



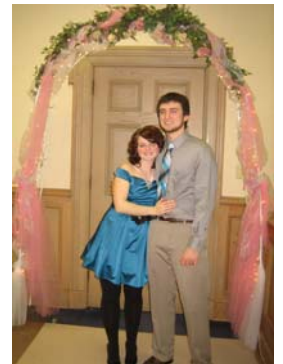
Randy Pucher and Laura Prestien with their cake, decorated by Juvenile Clerk Megan Alcox.



William Wolf and Nicole Bramley



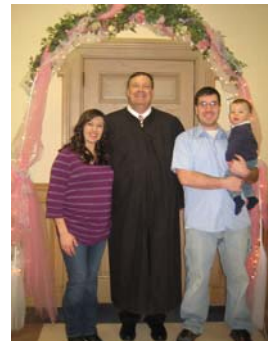
Jeremy Watt and Jackie Young



Brandon Matus and Leann Gretsinger



Derek Russ and Leslie Johnson



Joel Burns, Kelly Thomas and their son Evan with Judge Dunn



Robert Sekerak and Linda Sekerak

Cake Gallery

Court employees volunteer to decorate cakes for couples marrying at the courthouse on Valentine's Day. Below are photos of the cakes baked by Linda Lohn and decorated by Juvenile and Probate Court employees.



Miguel Rosado and Kristen Ernst



Chris Helmick and Janet Russ



Michael Getz and Kaitlin Boos with their ring bearer, flower girl and Judge Dunn