

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN JUNE 2013

GUARDIANSHIP VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED AT ANNUAL PICNIC



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and Editor

On an unusually cold and wet June day, Fred Hatch stood under the Brunswick Eagles Club pavilion to celebrate his eight years of service as a Volunteer Guardian in Medina County.

Hatch, one of Medina County's 40 active volunteers, began as a guardian in Cuyahoga County in 1990 before bringing his experience to Medina in 2005.

"I obviously don't do it for money," Hatch said. "I like to participate and I thought my experience from Cuyahoga could help in Medina."

He has had a total of 10 wards – people incapable of managing their own affairs, either because of age or mental illness – in his 23 years of volunteering, all of whom he considered friends and have since passed away.

Upon death, guardianship is terminated, but Hatch said there have been times when he contacted the family and Probate Judge for permission to assist in funeral arrangements, as he did with his first ward whose three estranged daughters were no longer in the area.

"I reached out to them through letters to inform them of their mother's condition," he said. "One daughter flew home and spent two days in the room with her mother just telling her how she felt."

After her passing, Hatch provided the daughter with a box of old family photographs to reminisce on happier times.

"I've had some outstanding experiences," he said. "I'm comfortable with the thought of death and I think it helps my wards. I never ask about their current situation, unless they



Volunteer Guardianship Picnic 2013

want to, but I try to bring up happy memories."

Hatch's favorite questions to ask his wards are whether they've had a cat or dog, their favorite vacation, or how they met their spouse.

"You can see them smile talking about it and I simply sit back and listen," he said.

"Our guardians are the best people I know," said Judge John J. Lohn, who began the Volunteer Guardianship Program in Medina County in 2004.

The number of Volunteer Guardians has increased almost every year since, reaching 40 volunteers in 2012.

This annual picnic was the last for Judge Lohn, who is retiring at the

end of June.

"What a fantastic program," Judge Lohn said. "It's hard to believe we didn't have this in our community. It's been such a great honor and a capstone to be your cheerleader."

Nicki Shook, Volunteer Guardianship Coordinator, said the Volunteer Guardianship Advisory Board contributed \$225 to the program in honor of Judge Lohn for his support.

Other donations to the program were made by the Marty Family and the National Association of Legal Professionals (Northeast Ohio Chapter).

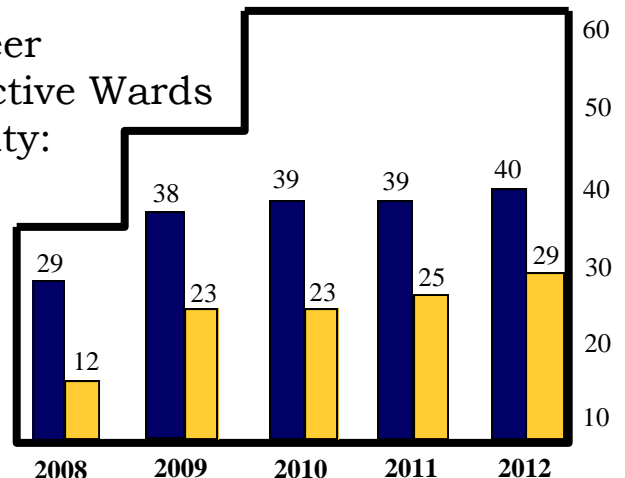
"The most important thing about the Guardianship Program, in my opinion, is that we are all that ward has," Hatch said. "If we didn't care, nobody would know little but important things, like if they got their exercise this week or their nails trimmed. The welfare of that ward is up the guardian. We care more than probably anyone else."

To view the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Newsletter, visit www.MedinaProbate.org and click on Court Newsletter.

Ratio of Volunteer Guardians to Active Wards in Medina County:



Source: Medina County Juvenile Court Annual Report



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*Spotlight
Employees*

DETENTION CENTER STAFF RECEIVE STATE-WIDE AWARDS

The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) nearly swept the Ohio Juvenile Detention Services Association conference for the second year in a row. This year, two employees and one volunteer, nominated by the Medina County JDC Administration, walked away with three of the four awards given by the OJDSA annually.



Chaplain Susan Jarvis

Detention Support Worker of the Year

Chaplain Jarvis has been volunteering her time with the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center since the JDC opened in 1999.

"Everything she does, she does without any compensation," said JDC Superintendent Ron Stollar. "I think that speaks a lot to her character and the type of person she is."

Chaplain Jarvis runs a twice weekly non-denominational religious service for detained juveniles.



Sergeant Greg Hutzel

Detention Services Worker of the Year

Sergeant Hutzel has been with the Medina County JDC for the past five years.

"He always has the best interests of the JDC at heart and in mind," Stollar said. "He is the type of employee who is proactive about looking for ways to do things better to better serve the community."

Stollar described Hutzel as a "well-respected leader" among not only his fellow employees, but also to the juveniles.



Corporal Shatice Dancy

Detention Line Staff Worker of the Year

"She is a role model in regards to her character," Stollar said.

During Corporal Dancy's ten years working in the Medina County JDC, not only has she helped train new officers, she also takes the time to speak with the female juveniles.

"She comes in and talks to the girls and encourages them in the right decisions," Stollar said. "She helps them put forth long term goals when they are released."

SOLUTIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC. PRESENTS PLAQUE TO JUDGE LOHN



Dr. Brad Williams and Dr. Kristine Quallich present Judge Lohn with his plaque.

"Presented to the Honorable Judge John J. Lohn. In deepest appreciation for your many years of visionary leadership and dedication in serving the residents of Medina County. Your exceptional service has benefited the lives of countless persons in our community."

- Governing Board of Directors and Staff Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Dr. Brad Williams and Dr. Kristine Quallich surprised Judge John J. Lohn with a plaque of appreciation on behalf of Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. before Drug Court began June 4, 2013.

Williams, the CEO of Solutions for the past 11 years, said it has been a "distinct honor and privilege" to work alongside the Judge as he handed him the gift.

"He has a genuine caring for the people he works with," Williams said. That is why Solutions board members decided to show their appreciation for Judge Lohn following the announcement of the Judge's retirement.

"He cares not only for his staff, but the kids," said Quallich, the Director of Educational Services for Medina City Schools. "He tries to help them in unique and creative ways and really utilizes collaborations to ensure he can find the best solutions."

Judge Lohn's compassion to not only help juveniles, but acknowledge them when they succeed was evident when upon receiving the gift, he said the day was not supposed to be about him, but about congratulating a juvenile graduating from the Drug Court Program.

Judge Lohn began the Drug Court Program in collaboration with Solutions in January 2004 as an alternative resource to monitor, intervene and provide structure to juveniles. Currently, Medina Juvenile Court employs two contracted counselors from Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

In addition to Drug Court, Judge Lohn has also implemented Camp Integrity, Teen Court, Parent Project, ID-21 and the Equine Therapy Program to help at-risk youth.