

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN NOVEMBER 2014

ANNUAL BUILD-A-BEAR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT BUILDS 140 BEARS FOR DELIVERY

Judge Kevin Dunn and approximately 40 volunteers helped build and dress stuffed bears to deliver to young children again this year.

With the assistance from the Build-A-Bear

Strongsville-Southpark team, 140 bears were quickly assembled and dressed as Santa Claus, elves, football players, ninja turtles, lifeguards, and in other costumes November 18 in the Medina County Achievement Center cafeteria.

Through donations from the Medina Sunrise Rotary, the Strongsville-Southpark Build-A-Bear store, the Juvenile Court donation



Judge Dunn, his wife Lisa Dunn, Juvenile Community Service youth and volunteers prepare and dress stuffed bears for delivery.

fund, and other community donations, 140 children, 70 boys and 70 girls, from the Medina County Achievement Center, the Help Me Grow program and children placed in the

Medina County foster care system will be surprised with a Build-A-Bear stuffed animal delivered by Judge Dunn and Santa Claus in December.

“I can’t wait for the delivery days,” Judge Dunn said. “I love handing out bears to these little kids. These children light up when they receive theirs and to see the joy that it brings them is unmeasurable.”

BEAR DELIVERIES PER YEAR

2007: 82 bears

2008: 88 bears

2009: 85 bears

2010: 86 bears

2011: 90 bears

2012: 120 bears

2013: 160 bears

2014: 140 bears



Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court will be closed on the following days:

December 18

Court offices will close at 1:15 p.m.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2014
Court will close at noon

Christmas Day

Thursday,
December 25, 2014

New Year's Day

Thursday,
January 1, 2015

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JUVENILE DRUG COURT EARNS FINAL STATE CERTIFICATION

The Juvenile Drug Court of the Medina County Juvenile Court has earned final certification from the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets.

In order to receive the certification, Judge Dunn had to submit an application, undergo a site visit, and provide specific program materials in response to certification standards that went into effect in January 2014.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor congratulated the Medina County Juvenile Court and Judge Dunn for receiving final certification.

"Specialized dockets have proven effective at addressing persistent criminal behaviors," said Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor. "Specialized dockets result in significantly lower recidivism rates which means offenders become productive members of society, for which we all benefit."

Specialized dockets are courts that are dedicated to specific types of offenses or offenders and use a combination of different techniques for holding offenders accountable while also addressing the underlying causes of their behavior.

The new standards provide a minimum level of uniform practices for specialized dockets throughout

Ohio, and allow local courts to innovate and tailor to meet their community's needs and resources.

"I'm very pleased that we finally received our certification from Columbus," Judge Dunn said. "This was an arduous process. Juvenile Drug Court is a successful program and we're looking forward to helping hundreds of children and their families."

Recommended practices outlined in the certification process include establishing eligibility requirements, evaluating effectiveness of the specialized docket, and assembling a treatment team for implementing daily operations of the specialized docket. The team can include licensed treatment providers, law enforcement, court personnel, and is headed by the specialized docket judge.

The Commission on Specialized Dockets has 22 members who advise the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts; and the creation of training programs for judges and court personnel. The commission makes all decisions regarding final certification.

JUDGE DUNN RETAINS SEAT

Judge Kevin W. Dunn will retain his seat as Medina County Juvenile and Probate Judge.

Judge Dunn, a Republican who ran as the incumbent for the seat, won the November 4, 2014 election by 11,424 votes. The Judge was appointed to the seat by Governor Kasich after Judge John Lohn's retirement in 2013.

Immediately after receiving the election results, Judge Dunn created a video and took to Facebook to thank everyone for their support and hard-work throughout the campaign.

"It was a success in a lot of ways," Judge Dunn said. "I am humbled for all the support and will work hard to keep going in positive directions."

Judge Dunn will serve a six-year term with Juvenile and Probate Court, hearing cases on adoptions, guardianships, neglect and abuse, wills, juvenile traffic, delinquency and unruly matters.



Judge Dunn with wife, Lisa Dunn, and Court Administrator Sharon Danko on election night.

NEW PROBATION OFFICER JOINS JUVENILE COURT



Jamie Tropkoff joined the Medina County Juvenile Court as the newest Juvenile Probation Officer this month.

Tropkoff, a Wadsworth High School graduate, will be responsible for monitoring youth placed on probation in the Buckeye, Black River, and Cloverleaf school districts.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security and a minor in Criminal Justice from the University of Akron, Tropkoff began working as a corrections officer with the Solon

Police Department in Cuyahoga County for two and a half years.

"I think my experience working in Solon will help me here," Tropkoff said. "I'm familiar with court process but there are differences for juveniles. I'm learning a lot from sitting in on hearings and observing the process first hand."

Tropkoff added that her familiarity with Medina County is also helping to provide a smooth transition.

"I'm happy to be back."