

Medina County Common Pleas Court

PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

93 PUBLIC SQUARE, ROOM 104, MEDINA, OHIO 44256

Kevin W. Dunn
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

December 20, 2013

Judge Dunn Delivers Bears to Special Needs Children for the Holiday

The Judge and his staff spent two days delivering stuffed bears, puppies and bunnies to children involved in the Help Me Grow Program and students at the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Achievement Center.



MEDINA – Judge Kevin Dunn joined Santa Claus at Montville Township Town Hall December 17 and Dr. Jane Manes at the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Achievement Center December 19 to help deliver bears to young children just before the holiday.

160 special needs children, 97 boys and 63 girls, from the Achievement Center, the Help Me Grow program and children placed in the Medina County foster care system were surprised with a Build-A-Bear teddy bear, rabbit or dog.

Both the Help Me Grow program and the Achievement Center have been involved with the Build-A-Bear Project for approximately four years.

“We love being a part of this,” said Jayme McCourt, Family First Council Administrative Assistant. “We feel so blessed for this outpouring of love to the kids.”

Through donations from the Medina Sunrise Rotary, the Walmart Foundation, the Strongsville-Southpark Build-A-Bear and the Juvenile Court donation fund, 78 more bears were delivered this year than 2007, the first year of the program.

“I’m thrilled,” said Dr. Manes, Director of Early Intervention Services at the Achievement Center. “We love this collaboration to build the bears and deliver them to the children. It’s so fantastic to see their faces light up and we thank Judge Dunn and all the volunteers for making this possible.”

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Students at the Achievement Center also thanked Judge Dunn by creating a handmade thank you card covered in bears.

“There are some very cool parts to this job,” Judge Dunn said. “This is definitely one of them.”